

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

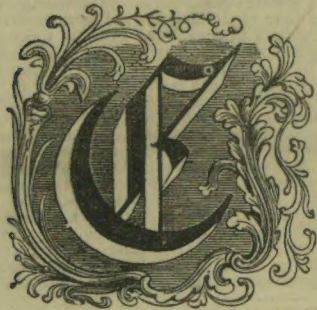


No. 145.—VOL. VI.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1845.

[SIXPENCE.]

THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.



ENGLISHMEN seek from the institution of Parliament those changes in their laws, and ameliorations in their condition, which other nations look for, but do not find, in the violences of revolutions, revolts, and insurrections. With us everything may be considered in a state of gradual transition from what is bad to something that shall be at least endurable, from what is good to something better still, for it is not our peculiar foible as a people to be satisfied with things as they are. In France, political changes are convulsions. A charter is gained, or a dynasty expelled, by force of arms; a "gunpowder" spirit enters largely into what ought to be pacific discussions; war always stands in the back ground as the *ultima ratio*, which may be called on to decide all controversy, and the musket is too often considered the speediest and most effectual reformer. This spirit, tending always to violence, is kept down by violent means: hence the laws that in France prohibit political meetings, fetter the press, and cripple the trial by

jury, while an enormous standing army flings the shadow of arbitrary power over all. Still more evident is the old Gallic love of war in the discussions that spring out of the relations between France and other countries. Causes of quarrel will arise unavoidably, but they need not be always made the most of. A slight perusal of the French debates on the Address will show how deeply they are tinged with old hatreds, and the memory of former triumphs. The pride of the victors of Jena and Austerlitz is there, as well as the darker reminiscences of Trafalgar and Waterloo. To renew the triumphs and avenge the overthrows, is the ardent wish of thousands in France, and the feeling is more than indicated, it is even expressed, in the Chambers. The discussion with which our Session has commenced is remarkable for nothing more than the general and earnest desire, among men of all parties, for the continuance of peace. In both places the mind of the two nations is manifested and expressed.

As we regard our Parliament as the source and origin of all the new laws that are necessitated by change of circumstances, and alterations of old ones, made no less necessary by the lapse of time, the opening of the Session is always regarded with something of a lively hope. Evils will be at least discussed, information and opinion will be elicited; and though, at the close of the annual sitting, the summing up of work and labour done may exhibit a sad preponderance of words over action, of intentions over results, yet the future disappointment does not lessen present

anticipations, and at the opening of Parliament there is heard on all sides the question, "What will be done?" Hope, that, like Charity, "trusteth much," gives a cheering answer; when Experience puts the other question, "What has been done?" Certainty furnishes a reply that is not so satisfactory.

Independently of these anticipations at the opening of Parliament of what the Session may produce, there is much in the ceremony itself that awakens attention. In proportion as the power and prerogatives of the Crown have been diminished, so have our Sovereigns assumed the more easy, every-day sort of life, that accords better with the position of the chief magistrate of a state, than the stiff and cumbrous magnificence which of old surrounded the person of royalty. But the privilege of calling together and dismissing the Legislature of the realm is still one of the distinct prerogatives of the Crown, and is generally exercised with a ceremony full of its former "state and ancientry." Royalty assumes its pomp, and the Ministers of the Crown are scarcely recognisable for the very staid and ordinary looking elderly gentlemen the greater number of them are, when seen in the robes that are the costumes of centuries ago, accompanying her Majesty as subordinates bound to render personal suit and service in the old feudal fashion, preceded by Heralds, and Pursuivants, and Equerries, and Gentlemen Ushers, and officers of hereditary dignity, with high-sounding titles and duties that are to the bulk of the world unknown. In such a scene we are



HER MAJESTY LEAVING THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

caught up, as it were, from the midst of an age of buying and selling, and calculating, that looks to profit more than pomp—to money more than magnificence, and that is characterised by an almost too exclusive a regard to utility—an age in which power itself is content with its own reality, and cares comparatively little for the exterior display of it—from the midst of so plain and plodding a generation we are transported suddenly into the midst of one wholly different, in which rank was careful of its outward emblems, and did not shun, but courted the being seen of men; in which the garb of office was scarcely second to its functions, and power was not satisfied without its pageantry. Then all the “robes and furred gowns,” the chains and wands of office, had a significance and value, and the inconvenience of splendour was undergone for the sake of its imposing effect on the multitude. All this has departed, and the power and benefit of government and law are not the less acknowledged, because they have adopted the costume of daily life. But to our forefathers this was incomprehensible. The prime minister of Henry the Eighth—the magnificent Wolsey—never went to attend his official duties without a numerous retinue of officers and dependants, as ushers, train-bearers, and mace-bearers in splendid liveries that denoted the great wealth of their master, as their numbers indicated his place and power. The prime minister of Victoria walks down to Westminster alone, in hat and coat of the most plebeian and unobtrusive plainness, with an umbrella under his arm, and looking as little like a successor of Wolsey—with more power than a Wolsey ever possessed—as can be conceived. Could the shade of the Cardinal encounter him, would not the proud statesman-priest look on the plain citizen figure with contempt? Yet as we, the contemporaries of the minister of England, recognise the possessor of her power, we walk on rather disposed to admire! Such is the difference between the life of the present and the past!

Thus the ceremony that attends the opening of Parliament by the Queen becomes, as a revival of old feudal magnificence and ancient pageantry, invested with a certain kind of curious interest; we see existing along with the power-loom and the railroad, a faint image of that regal supremacy which was so often so oppressively used, that the people have no reasons to regret its decay, and many to feel thankful that it cannot be revived. To that magnificence of the one and of the few, the welfare of the multitude was sacrificed, till they grew too strong to be coerced, too enlightened to be dazzled into a blind obedience, or the acknowledgment of “the right divine of kings to govern wrong.” On the pomp of royalty men now look with a kind of antiquarian interest, or that curious admiration with which the geologist regards the fossil remains of those extinct races whose powers must have been almost too terrible to have made them either safe or agreeable contemporaries of man: we admire their strange structure, so different to aught our present experience offers to us; but it is with a secret gladness that they are extinct and perished, and can crush and trample no more.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

PARISIANA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Wednesday.

The joyous season of the Carnival has now passed, and is replaced by one very different, which even in these days claims some solemnity of observance. Pleasures have been kept up with alacrity to the last, and seemed to be the more furiously pursued that their time was short. To the higher classes, the rich and titled, the past season has presented an unremitting succession of pleasure; but the old observances and customs, the out-of-door joviality and buoyancy that formerly rendered it one of merriment, even to the poorest, exist no longer. Here, as elsewhere, the spirit of fun has departed. The only relic of the “good old times” that remains, is the procession of the *bauf gras*, which was promenade through the streets of the capital on Sunday and yesterday, though much shorn of its splendours. Numerous spectators filled the *trois-tours*, or joined the cavalcade in their carriages. If you have never chanced to see this procession, a slight account of it may not be uninteresting to you. The Municipal Guards, on horseback, open the pageant, followed by two heralds and eight drummers, in the costume of Louis XIV., and after them a band of the 14th Light Infantry. Then proceed on horseback those important personages, M. Rolland, butcher, owner of the *bauf gras*, and M. Cornet, the grazier. A motley assemblage on horseback, drawn up in two files, follow, amongst whom are Louis XIV. with a nobleman of his Court; Louis XIII., three Chinese Mandarins, the Emperor of Morocco, two Moorish Princes, Francis I., and his attendant; Henry III., and his attendant, the Provost of Paris; two Pages of Francis I., the Duke of Burgundy, the Duke of Lorraine, besides numerous pages and gentlemen of the time of Louis XIV. and Charles VI. After them comes the enormous *Pere Goriot* himself, richly caparisoned, his head ornamented by a large plume of feathers, surrounded by sacrificers, lictors, conductors, &c. He is followed by a golden-wheeled chariot, with crimson velvet drapery, drawn by four horses, covered with skins from head to foot, led by Time, bearing *comme de rigueur* his immense scythe. The chariot is occupied by Cupid, Jupiter with his thunderbolts, Apollo, Hercules, Mercury, and all the other deities of Olympus in *grand costume*. This whimsical medley of heterogeneous personages is certainly laughable, but does not make up for the *bon bons*, the *masques*, and the jollity of the ancient Carnival.

Amidst the parting splendours of the season, which, like the faded colours of the dolphin, redoubled in brilliancy as they approached their term, the ball of the Liste Civile and the Polish ball were the most remarkable. The ball of the Liste Civile was, as usual, attended by the *élite* of the faubourg St. Germain, amongst whom those distinguished legitimists, the Duke de Levis, Marquis de la Rochejacqueim, M. Berryer, and Viscount Walsh. The peculiar character of the old aristocracy pervaded this brilliant assemblage; the union of richness and simplicity in the toilettes, and the courteous dignified bearing, recalled the days of the *ancien régime*. Polkas and mazurkas prolonged the dancing till four in the morning; 3000 persons were present. The Polish ball, given under the auspices of the Princess Czartoriska, at the hotel Lambert, presented a scene of great magnificence. The splendid apartments of the amiable princess, refulgent with light, were filled with ladies covered with diamonds, amongst whom the Marchioness of Aylesbury was, as usual, remarkable. A magnificent gallery had been constructed in the principal court yard, which was converted into an immense ball-room, where the fountain in the midst, surrounded by flowers, paintings, and lights, gave to the whole a fairy-like aspect. The mazurkas, above all, executed with truly national grace and spirit, were admirable. The one which was danced by the Countess Nansouty, the Marchioness of Aylesbury, Mdle. Villiers, and Madame de Mackaw, and several other noble foreigners, excited general enthusiasm. The ball lasted until seven o'clock in the morning; 3500 persons were present, and the receipts are said to amount to fifty thousand francs.

The Arab chiefs have left Paris for Marseilles, delighted with their reception here. Unfortunately, all their countrymen do not partake in their cordial feelings, and it appears that Marshal Bugeaud has received formidable accounts of the hostile preparations of Abd-el-Kader, who has formed an army of 8,000 men, among whom 3,000 are, it appears, subjects of the Emperor of Morocco, in order to re-commence in the spring their struggle for independence. Algiers itself is becoming daily of more importance to the French, and more peopled with French subjects. *Modistes* now go over there to make their fortunes, and every description of trade flourishes. As a sample of the increase of the Christian population there, I have only to tell you that the number of baptisms, which in 1830 was only one during the whole year, augmented in 1844 to 1,025; and the marriages, of which in 1830, there were none—in 1831, only 9—amounted in the past year to 270.

You have, ere this, had tidings of the elevation of M. de Salvandy to the post lately occupied by M. de Villenain, of Minister of Public Instruction. I have sincere pleasure in announcing to you the restoration of the latter to his wonted soundness of intellect, which was fully attested by an admirable letter he wrote to the Duc de Cazes the other day, expressing his gratitude for the generous intentions of Government towards his family, and, at the same time that he refuses to accept the provision destined for his children, declaring that his fortune, though not large, was sufficient for their maintenance, besides, that he trusted to be yet enabled to be useful to them. The ex-Minister also hints that his resignation had been somewhat prematurely accepted by the Government. We hear that he has taken a house at Chailfont, where the perfect calm and quiet of the country will, it is hoped, confirm his recovery, having given up, in compliance with the earnest intreaties of his friends, his desire of resuming his seat at the Academy. It is said that M. de Salvandy will shortly be elevated to the French peerage.

Amongst the many traps laid by the Parisian shopkeepers for unwary customers, one of the most novel and successful is the following:—A *commis*, dressed in the last extreme of elegance, promenades with fashionable nonchalance the front of the shop. When a *grisette*, with longing eyes, stops to contemplate the merchandise she has it not in her means to purchase, the graceful shopkeeper advances, inviting her to enter, with the assurance that

the sight will cost her nothing. Once allured into the shop, and bewildered by envying admiration, she has not fortitude to resist the offer of the *commis*, who, in an undertone, begs her to accept the article she most admires. But, alas! for the treachery of man! before she has left the shop the insidious clerk calls out to the cashier the price of the article she has taken, and the poor *grisette* is obliged to pay the cost of her vanity.

FRANCE.

Nothing of political consequence has occurred in Paris during the week. The proceedings in the Chamber have been without interest. The only matter of discussion for the Paris press, therefore, has been the dismissal of Count de St. Priest, Minister Plenipotentiary of France, at Copenhagen, and M. Drouin de Lhuiss. Both these functionaries voted against the Government on the Address. The Opposition consider the dismissal of these gentlemen as an arbitrary act on the part of M. Guizot. In the case of M. de Lhuiss the step is, however, justified by the *Débats* upon very reasonable grounds. That paper says:—“The dismissal of M. Drouin de Lhuiss, because it was not only just, but necessary and indispensable. M. Drouin de Lhuiss was director of the commercial division at the Foreign-office. The person filling that situation is initiated by his position into all plans and negotiations relating to treaties of commerce. His functions place him in daily contact with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and he is in some measure the intimate and confidential secretary of the Minister. The first condition required from a person filling such a situation, is a perfect accord, a strict conformity of views, and a cordial understanding with the Minister. Suppose, for example, that M. Guizot wished to negotiate a commercial treaty with England on the basis of a cordial understanding, M. Drouin de Lhuiss, an open or secret partisan of M. Thiers or of M. Billault, would give full vent to his mistrust of the foreigner, and to his prejudice against the English alliance. Parliamentary liberty and the independence of a deputy are fine terms, but the good direction of affairs and the necessities of the Government are still more important considerations.”

The *Revue de Paris* announces that letters from M. Bruat had been received by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which the Governor of the Marquesas mentions his having adopted measures calculated to effect, without any unpleasant complication, the transition from the *régime* of “absolute possession” to that of the “protectorate.” We have not heard, says that paper, “if M. Bruat mentions having completely succeeded in the accomplishment of his moderate and pacific intentions; but we apprehend that such has not been the case, for a report prevails that fresh scenes of revolt and collision occurred at Tahiti after the receipt of the despatches enjoining the immediate restoration of Queen Pomare.”

The *Moniteur* contains an ordinance appointing Baron de Belling Envoy Extraordinary to the King of Denmark, in the room of Count de St. Priest; and another appointing M. de Lambert Director of the Commercial Department, in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the room of M. Drouin de Lhuiss.

SPAIN.

Our letters from Madrid, of the 29th ult., state that General Prim was liberated, at Cadiz, on the 24th, and was shortly expected in the capital. The Baron de Meer was also on his way thither. General Serrano, who had been placed of late in a sort of exile, was said to have been ordered to the capital; and General Jose de la Concha, Captain-General of the Basque provinces, had been likewise sent for.

The two Queens and the Infanta were present on that day at a funeral service celebrated in the Convent of Atocha, and for the repose of the soul of Donna Carlotta, wife of the Infante Don Francisco de Paula.

There was a grand review of troops on the 28th, at which the Queen was present. Her Majesty made her appearance on horseback, dressed in a blue riding-habit and round hat, with the insignia of a captain-general of the army on the sleeves. General Narvaez rode on one side of her Majesty, and General Mazarredo on the other. The Marchioness of Castelar, Marquis of Malpica, and several other members of the household, followed immediately behind the Queen, on horseback. The Queen Mother and the Infanta Louisa came after, in an open carriage, with General Butron on one side, and General Rivera on the other; a large suite of officers followed, together with several other carriages, and two squadrons of Lancers. The Queen looked animated and cheerful, but her countenance does not indicate health. She passed down the whole line, and on her return to the Prado, got into the carriage, after which the troops marched by, giving *vivas* by word of command as they passed in succession before the Queen.

TAHITI.

The Rev. Mr. Howe, one of the missionaries of the London Missionary Society, has just arrived in Liverpool, direct from Tahiti, which island he left on the 27th of August. Mr. Howe has given the following particulars of the present state of that and of the other islands of the Society Group:—

“The whole population of Tahiti, and the other islands claimed by the French, were in arms against them, and they were masters of nothing beyond what they occupied in Tahiti itself. They could not move a mile from Papiiti without being attacked by the natives, who were determined to resist to the last. The total French force consisted of about 1000 men, and of the natives there were, either in Tahiti or the adjoining islands, from 4000 to 5000 determined men in arms, resolved to resist them to the last. Already from 200 to 250 of the French had fallen in attacking the strong position taken by the natives, of whom about 100 had also lost their lives. Queen Pomare had refused to have anything to do with the French. She had joined her subjects in one of the adjoining islands, and was determined either to live or die a Queen.”

In the same vessel with Mr. Howe and his wife were Mr. and Mrs. Jesson, their three children, and Mrs. M’Kean, the widow of the late Rev. J. S. M’Kean, who was shot while standing in his own verandah, at Point Venus, during the battle fought between the French and the natives immediately before their departure. The missionaries are entrusted with letters from Queen Pomare to the Queen of Great Britain, also to the directors of the London Missionary Society, and an address to the Christian churches throughout the kingdom.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—Sir George Clerk is appointed Master of the Mint. Lord Jocelyn will be appointed to office—we presume to the Lordship of the Admiralty, vacant by the nomination of Mr. Corry to be Secretary to that Board. Mr. Cardwell has been appointed Secretary to the Treasury in the room of Sir G. Clerk.

THE FOUNTAINS IN TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—On Monday workmen commenced the erection of the masonry in the basins of Trafalgar square, previous to the laying down of the pipes. The blocks are of red granite, and each weighs several tons. The works are expected to be completed in about two months.

THE NEW CONSERVATIVE CLUB HOUSE.—The new conservative Club House, erected on the site of the late Thatched House Tavern, is to be opened with great ceremony on Monday, previous to which it will be inspected by Prince Albert. At the ceremony on Monday, it is understood the leading Members of her Majesty’s Government, as well as a large number of the aristocracy, will be present, to partake of a splendid *dejeuner*, to which they have been invited. This mansion is one of the most stately and commanding that has for many years been erected in the metropolis.

THE AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.—This Society had a dinner on Monday at the Freemasons’ Tavern, Great Queen-street, Lincoln’s-inn-fields, at which nearly 1000 persons were present, including many members of Parliament connected with the agricultural interest. The chairman was the Duke of Richmond, and the Duke of Buckingham occupied the vice-chair. Lord Beaumont descended upon the advantages arising from protection societies, and spoke unequivocally of the injury inflicted upon the agricultural interest, by what he termed those fatal measures, the last Corn Law, the Tariff, and the Canada Corn Bill. He declared that the Government had broken all their promises to the agriculturists, and asked derisively what had become of the 55s. a quarter which had been promised; that promise he said, like all the others, had been broken. The noble lord then urged the meeting to check any further attempt at relaxation, to exhibit their strength, and to endeavour to obtain some return for what they had suffered. The other speakers were Mr. Baker, of Writtle, Essex; Mr. Fisher Hobbs, of Mark’s Hall, Essex; Mr. Buck, M.P.; Mr. W. Miles, M.P.; Mr. Newdegate, M.P.; Mr. S. Mills, of Enford, Wiltshire; Lord Malmesbury, Mr. Sotherton, M.P., Mr. Stafford O’Brien, M.P., the Duke of Buckingham, the Duke of Richmond, and Mr. Pusey, M.P. The speakers generally expressed strong dissatisfaction at the conduct pursued by the Government towards the agriculturists, and a determination to resist any further diminution of agricultural protection. The assembly was altogether a very influential one.

AMERICAN HOPS.—Another attempt to take advantage of the new tariff has been made by the importation of some American hops. A quantity of thirty-eight bales, was on Monday put up for sale by auction by Messrs. Keeling and Hunt, of Monument-yard. The hops were pronounced by the trade to be of excellent quality; but the duty of £4 10s. per cwt., with the additional five per cent. and charges for freight is a prohibition to any large importation to this market, unless a scarcity should exist in the crop of English growth. The whole of those offered for sale by Keeling and Hunt will be exported.

MORTALITY IN LONDON.—The total number of deaths from all causes in the metropolis during the week ending last Saturday was 1,011—males, 507; females, 504. The deaths not caused by violence which were registered within the last thirteen weeks, with the mean temperature for the same periods, show for the most part an increase of mortality corresponding with a decrease of temperature. Thus, in the week ending the 23d of November, when the mean temperature was 44 deg. °F., the deaths not caused by violence were only 584; while in the week ending the 21st of December, when the mean temperature was 37 deg., the number of deaths, including those by violence, was 1,343. The weekly average of deaths for the last five winters has been 1039; but when the summer months are included, the average taken for the last five years, it is reduced to 963. The total number of births in the week ending last Saturday was 1236—males, 626; females, 610.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

GAME AND GAMING.

The vexed question of poaching and preserving promises to be a popular subject with senators just now, and we shall see game occupying, during the present session, such a position in the councils of Parliament as gaming did in the past. “The Gambling Committee of the Lords,” as technical irreverence designated the body of peers who dealt with the proposition of protection for betting in connexion with the turf, pronounced against the convenience of any new measures in relation to such contracts; and there cannot be a doubt but that they arrived at a sound decision. Betting on horse-racing, in its legitimate character, was confined to wagers among the owners of horses, who backed their coursers in the spirit of honourable emulation. Presently it went out of bounds, extended over all sorts of persons and places—found for itself a ring—or preserve of legs and levanters, and what not—and became a nuisance. In this state of things the legislative assembly was required to provide a remedy for a plague which the patients had created for themselves—and very properly refused to turn St. Stephen’s into a place of refuge for voluntary lunatics. They are now to be asked what they will do with the Game Laws? The inquiry is, perhaps, a more difficult one—certainly a more serious, involving, as its matter has done and may do, so much of the grave—what then ought they to do?

The statutes relating to the preservation of game were enacted at a period when shooting was pursued as an amusement, and the wild animals were protected for the purposes of sport. Anon a strong head of game became one of the appurtenances of the gentlemen of enterprise and spirit, and a Derby-book another. Then the device of laying round was introduced, whereby wagers and stakes might be “hedged” without loss; and to it succeeded the act for legalizing the sale of game, whereby a sporting establishment could be hedged—with a profit. When wagers were considered to be sufficiently secured on the principle of their being debts of honour—and game was protected by law that it might minister to rural pursuits and healthful exercise, betting round and battueing was as little thought of, as that a race-horse should travel faster to Doncaster than he should run for the Leger. It is absurd to suppose that the institutions of the statutes for the protection of game ever intended to confer upon individuals the privilege of devastating their neighbourhoods with hordes of birds and beasts which should lay waste the hope of the harvest: they were not framed for the purpose of dealing with hares and pheasants as articles of barter and commerce. The existing movement against these laws is, no doubt, the effect of a temporary cause. The extreme pressure to which the agricultural population is now subjected, in consequence of a bad season in 1844, has given rise to some lamentable affrays between gamekeepers and poachers—which in a time of plenty might not have occurred. But the fashionable system of growing a prodigality of game is unwholesome—unsafe—and the taste it caters for wholly opposed to English habits and sympathies. Sporting is a national affair in this country: popular because it is essentially popular in its spirit. Such is not the character of the *battue*; it is exclusive, and therefore unsportsmanlike, and therefore unpopular. We have said that, had last autumn been more prolific, we might have been spared those rural tragedies which have so recently been enacted; perhaps it would be wise, at all events, to wait the issue of a season of fruitfulness to observe its effect. It is not, indeed, probable—constituted as the majorities in the House of Commons are—that any very decisive changes will be effected in the Game-laws. Such a step, however, whatever its wisdom or otherwise, does not appear to be called for by the occasion. Those enactments are chiefly managed by country gentlemen, the parties most interested in their wise administration. Let these interpret them rather in mercy than by the letter of justice. But, should the Legislature determine on interference, let the experiment be the repeal of the bill legalising the traffic in game.

TATTERSALL’S.

MONDAY.—The acceptance for the Chester Cup exceeds the most sanguine expectations, and effectually answers the cavillers against the handicaps; some will say, perhaps, that the fact of all Lord George Bentinck’s horses, except Pug, having been scratched, is not complimentary to those who drew up the weights; but the secret of this, we suspect, is that the noble lord was determined to punish those who had forestalled the stable—Clumsy and Nereus, had they stood, would have been prominent favourites. The betting this afternoon was brisk, if not heavy, the following horses having strong parties:—Semiseria, Cataract, Obscurity, Pug, The Era, Agriculture, and Corranra; the other horses mentioned below, were not in much demand. For the Derby, the run was in favour of Mentor, Pantasa, Iron Master, (a great “pot,” and expected to be qualified), the Laird-o’-Cockpen, Miss Whip colt, and Fuzbos. The “cracks” remain as before.

CHESTER CUP.		
15 to 1 agst Semiseria	33 to 1 agst Winesour	50 to 1 agst Master of the Rolls filly
15 to 1 agst Obscurity	35 to 1 agst Pride of Kildare	50 to 1 agst Counsellor
13 to 1 agst Cataract	35 to 1 agst St. Lawrence	50 to 1 agst Corranra (t)
20 to 1 agst Celeste	40 to 1 agst Extempore	65 to 1 agst Alice Hawthorn (taken)
20 to 1 agst Pug	40 to 1 agst Sorella	66 to 1 agst The Dean (t)
22 to 1 agst The Era	40 to 1 agst Queen of Tyne	100 to 1 agst Mickey Free (t)
25 to 1 agst Zanoni	50 to 1 agst Foigh-a-Ballagh (taken)	
30 to 1 agst Agriculture		
DERBY.		
12 to 1 agst Alarm	33 to 1 agst Mentor (t)	40 to 1 agst Ironmaster (t)
13 to 1 agst Cobweb colt	33 to 1 agst Miss Whip colt (t)	50 to 1 agst Connaught Ranger
15 to 1 agst Kedger	33 to 1 agst Pantasa	50 to 1 agst Young Eclipse
16 to 1 agst Idas	35 to 1 agst Old England (t)	50 to 1 agst Fuzbos
18 to 1 agst Pam	40 to 1 agst Frederica colt (t)	66 to 1 agst Tring (t)
30 to 1 agst Annandale (t)	40 to 1 agst Laird O’Cockpen (t)	1000 to 1 agst Adonis, the Myrrha colt
30 to 1 agst Newsmonger		

1500 even between Alarm and Cobweb colt, and 500 even between Annandale and Miss Whip colt.

THURSDAY.—A thin room, and business lukewarm and unimportant. The only Cup horses in force were Semiseria, The Era, St. Lawrence, and Pride of Kildare; and for the Derby, only Kedger, Mentor, and Newsmonger. The market prices agree in the main with those above quoted.

CHESTER CUP.		
8 to 1 agst Mr. Irwin’s lot	25 to 1 agst Celeste (t)	50 to 1 agst Seaport
10 to 1 agst Semiseria (t)	30 to 1 agst Winesour	50 to 1 agst Foigh-a-Ballagh
16 to 1 agst Obscurity (t)	30 to 1 agst Zanoni	50 to 1 agst Alice Hawthorn
20 to 1 agst The Era (t)	33 to 1 agst St. Lawrence (t)	50 to 1 agst Master of the Rolls filly
30 to 1 agst Cataract	33 to 1 agst Pride of Kildare	60 to 1 agst Extravaganza
25 to 1 agst Pug	33 to 1 agst Portrait	

DERBY.		
11 to 1 agst Alarm	30 to 1 agst Mentor	40 to 1 agst Iron Master (t)
13 to 1 agst Cobweb colt	33 to 1 agst Annandale	50 to 1 agst You g Eclipse
15 to 1 agst Kedger	40 to 1 agst Frederica colt	66 to 1 agst Fuzbos
18 to 1 agst Pam	40 to 1 agst Laird O’Cockpen, t	1000 to 10 agst Adonis
30 to 1 agst Newsmonger		

DEATH OF THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM STURGES BOURNE.—We regret to record the demise of the above right hon. gentleman, who expired on Saturday last, at Testwood House, near Southampton, after an illness of several weeks. The deceased, William Sturges Bourne, was son of the Rev. John Sturges, Chancellor of Winchester. He was born in 1769, and married, 1808, Miss Bowles, daughter of Mr. Oldfield Bowles, of North Ashton, Oxon. On the death of his maternal uncle he assumed the name of “Bourne,” in addition to his patronymic. He sat for a period of above thirty years in the House of Commons, having represented Hastings, Christchurch, Bandon, Ashburton, and Milbourne Port, in Parliament. On the passing of the Reform Bill he retired altogether from political affairs. The deceased was instrumental in introducing the vestry statute which bears his name—“Sturges Bourne’s Act.” He was Lord Warden of the New Forest, a sort of honorary situation, which he had held ever since 1827.

DEATH OF THE MARQUIS OF SLIGO.—We regret to state that accounts have been received of the death of the Marquis of Sligo. The noble earl had been in diplomatic service, and was formerly Governor of Jamaica. He was born in 1788. The deceased marquis, though professedly a Whig, had not mixed up in party matters for many years past.

THE LATE MURDER AT SALT-HILL.—Mr. Fitzroy Kelly, who has been specially retained, in conjunction with Mr. Montague Chambers, for the defence of the accused, has, it is stated, received a fee of three hundred guineas. The assizes take place on the 10th of March.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The usefulness of the electric telegraph was strikingly demonstrated on Tuesday afternoon. Messrs. Cooke and Wheatstone obtained a newspaper copy of the Queen’s Speech, and transmitted the whole of it from Paddington to Gosport in from three to four thousand signals, in less than two hours. It was transcribed, printed, and circulated among the authorities at Gosport and Portsmouth. Had the line of communication extended to Falmouth, the transmission would have been made in precisely the same period of time.

EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE ON THE SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY.—On Monday the train which leaves Nine-elms terminus for Gosport at one o’clock, had arrived within a quarter of a mile of the station at Winchester, when the engine-driver observed a man walk on to the railway, and throw himself across the rails. The action was so instantaneous, that it was impossible to stop the train in time. The train, however, did not pass over him, but the guard attached in front of the engine to clear the rails from any impediment, struck the unfortunate man a tremendous blow on the back of his neck, driving him several yards clear of the rails, and causing his immediate death. He was one of the Hants rural constabulary, and was stationed on duty in the neighbourhood of Winchester. From subsequent inquiries it appeared that on the same day the deceased had made two previous attempts to get on the line whilst the train was approaching, but was driven away by the servants of the company. On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held on his body at the White Swan, Winchester, and the jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death,” with a nominal deodand of 1s. on the engine. The jury were also unanimously of opinion that no blame was attributable to the company.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A JUROR.—On Wednesday night an inquest was held before Mr. Payne, at the New Inn, Old Bailey, on the body of Mr. William Hitchcock Steet, aged 45, of Titchfield-street, Oxford-street, plumber and glazier, who was seized with a sudden illness on Monday morning, while sitting as a juror at the Criminal Court, of which he died the same evening. On his being taken ill he was immediately removed to the air, and placed on a stool, when he cried out “Bleed me.” But he was beyond medical aid. Verdict—“Apoplexy.”

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

EVENING MELODIES.—NO. V.

The Child's Mystery.

Why do you wear that rose
Amidst your shining hair?
Its faded lustre throws
No hue of glory there!
Its leaves, that once were red,
Are yellow with decay;
Oh, sister, it is dead—
Do throw that rose away!

I'll bring you flowers so new,
That when this morning's dawn
First shed its pearls of dew,
Those flowers were yet unborn!
I'll pluck the pots of Spring;
I'll rob the garden's pride;
But that poor withered thing—
Do cast it quite aside!

There, let me climb your seat;
And then I'll take and crush
Its petals 'neath my feet—
Oh, sister, why that flush?
Nay, it when roses die,
You like them still to stay,
Indeed I will not try
To take that one away.

But when within our sight,
Beneath yon sky of blue,
Spring roses fade, young and bright,
And therefore most like you!
When verdure's on the tree,
And beauty on the bower,
It does seem odd to me,
You love that poor dead flower!

R. R. S.

A LAZY YELLOW.

The laziest man in Newfoundland is John Jingles, who employs a nigger to sneeze for him, and pays the coloured gentleman a dollar a day.

POPULAR FEELING IN AMERICA.

The popular sentiment of "Git out the way, old Dan Tucker," is contrary to every requirement of hospitality, to every social and humane feeling, and to the spirit of the age in which we live.—*New York Paper.*

AN EXCUSABLE BLUNDER.

A clergyman, who had in the lottery of matrimony drawn a share that proved to him worse than a blank, was experiencing a severe scolding from his Kantippe, when he was called upon to unite a pair in the blessed state of wedlock. The poor priest, actuated by his own feelings and experience, rather than by a sense of his canonical duty, opened the book and began, "Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of trouble," repeating a part of the burial service. The astonished bridegroom exclaimed, "Sir, sir, you mistake; I came here to be married, not buried." "Well," replied the clergyman, "if you insist on it, I am obliged to marry you; but, believe me, my friend, you had better be buried."

THE NETHERLANDS.

The population of the Netherlands was, according to the official reports, on the 1st of January, 1844, as follows:—Provinces of—Northern Brabant, 394,406 inhabitants; Gueldersland, 363,169; Southern Holland, 551,173; Northern Holland, 459,133; Zetland, 157,486; Utrecht, 151,179; Friesland, 239,673; Overysse, 207,907; Groningen, 184,019; Drenthe, 78,854; Limbourg, 200,573. Total inhabitants, 2,988,172.

THE POPULATION OF POLAND.

The *Breslau Gazette* states that the population of Poland was, in 1843, 4,700,734 souls, being an increase since 1829, of 643,802. The population, under the last census, is thus divided—4,175,598 Christians, 295 Mahometans, and 524,491 Jews. This last-named class has increased 143,349 since 1829.

A HINT ABOUT COURTSHIP.

A man, to be successful in love, should think only of his mistress and himself. Rochefoucauld observes, that lovers are never tired of each other's company, because they are always talking of themselves.

LOUIS PHILIPPE AND THE AMERICAN LADY.

At one of the late "receptions" at the Chateau of the Tuilleries an unusually large number of "American citizens" was presented. With his usual tact and affability the King managed to speak with and captivate every one of the party. A fat Kentuckian lady, overpowered by the *bonhomie* of the adroit Sovereign, exclaimed in the overflow of her feeling, "Law, King Philippe, how you do talk English!"

THE POACHERS' HUTS.—A SONG OF THE GAME LAWS.

There are three silent cottages
Within a leafy wood;
Beyond them runs the wild high road,
Behind them trills the brook.
The trees that shade them round were once
Young beeches from yon park;
But they have grown to fold them in,
As if to keep them dark!

A sort of gloomy loneliness
Hangs round like a shroud,
The hidden chimney sends not up
A single curling cloud.
Against the night air there doth trail
No vapour white and thin,
To tell that life is dressing food
Or burning fire within!

There is no food, there is no fire,
To warm the living there;
But human beings nursing up
Fear, Hunger, and Despair!
And for the meat and for the coal,
Where craving Nature calls,
Guns rest against the bolted doors
And nets hang on the walls!

The lurcher dog grows stealthily low
Upon his old heath-throne;
The living creatures dare not howl—
Their misery may but groan!
But they can out of anguish pluck
Oh! many a lawless thought,
And tempting promptings still urge on,
The spirit, till it's caught!

The old men brood, as though dark thoughts
Did the heart's current clog;
The young glance sulky, bodiless looks,
At net, and gun, and dog!
Mother, we're hungered—give us food,
Is still the children's prayer;
My babes, close by—there run and fly
The plump bird and the hare!

The guns are in young stalwart hands!
The nets on shoulders wide!
The lurcher dog had crouched away
From the fireless hearth-side!
Silent as thieves! the desperate group
Have gone towards the wood!
God send their path, this darksome night,
Be not a track of blood!

The inmates of those pauper huts
Wait with a wild unrest,
Pale looks, and anxious hearts that beat
Loud in the quivering breast!
Mother and children huddle close
In all their want and woe;
While the wretched old men sit and think,
And murmur curses low!

Hush! there is at one little door
A gentle tap—no din
Of latch or lock! but a man and dog
Slink stealthily within!
The thick grass spreads the floor! the dog
Is clay-behaved and wet,
And the young man's brow is very cold,
But still is dropping sweat!

Ha! soft the coach-guard's bugle winds
Along the dark high road—
"Ho, youngsters, you have brought to-night
A goodish weighty load."
Panting, the young man grasps the coin,
And away the coach has sped—
To-morrow the starved and thin within
Will have fire, and meat, and bread!

Voices and footsteps pass without—
"Quick! quick! unbar the door!"
And let us lay this dying man
Upon his own home floor!
There's been a black and bloody strife
Within the wood to-night,
So the beer crib there must be our lair,
Till we start with the morning light."

The mother tendeth her wounded boy
With a wailing wild and low,
Till death draws over his faint pale brow,
And his blood hath ceased to flow.
Gone without ever a word of God,
Ere the breath of the morning gale
Fann'd the fevered brain of his comrades twain
As they trod in chains to gaol!

A trial for murder is on to-day,
Done in a great Lord's wood,
Where the keeper of game at night was slain,
And the grass lay red with his blood!
A fatal ball from his trusty gun
Struck one of the poacher crew,
And but now a verdict of "Guilty—death!"
Is passed on the other two!

Without the cold unyielding gaol
The shivering culprit, hear!
As loud and slow to the crowd below
They speak these words of fear—
"We are not hanged for villainous theft,
Nor yet for the spilling of blood—
But because of the plump and plentiful game
That was wild within the wood!"

Oh no! those erring men were wrong—
They were hung for a reckless sin,
Though pity may be for the starving fate
To crime that lured them in!
But Oh! mend the cold and cruel law,
That, when hunger goods despair,
Perils in strife a human life
For the sake of bird or hare!

EFFECTS OF TRAFALGAR ON PITT.

On the receipt of the news of the memorable battle of Trafalgar (some day in November, 1805), I happened to dine with Pitt. I shall never forget the eloquent manner in which he described his conflicting feelings, when roused in the night to read Collingwood's despatches. Pitt observed that he had been called up at various hours in his eventful life, by the arrival of news of various hues; but that whether good or bad he could always lay his head on his pillow and sink into sound sleep again. On this occasion, however, the great event announced brought with it so much to weep over, as well as to rejoice at, that he could not calm his thoughts, but got up, though it was three in the morning.—*Lord Fitzharris's Note-Book, 1805.*

INSCRIBED ON A LETTER DELIVERED AT NO. 198, STRAND.

Pray Mr. Postman, don't refuse,
To leave this, without doubt,
For the Editor of the "London News,"
You're sure to find him out.

PROPERTY IN RAILWAYS.

It has been calculated that the traffic of the last six months of 1844, on the 35 principal railways in Great Britain, amounts to three millions and a quarter or more—exactly £3,264,450. This traffic has been carried on upon 122 miles of railway, and 234 miles of branch lines, making in all 1756 miles. This revenue is £450,000 more than the corresponding half of last year, and amounts to about £4000 per mile per annum. The total sum available this half year for interest and dividends will be about £2,000,000, giving, for the value of all the important lines of the country, at 20 years' purchase, a sum of £80,000,000.

MILK AND BUTTER IN CHINA.

During his late visit to Manchester, Sir Henry Pottinger stated that in China he had never been in the habit of seeing either milk or butter, but when the young Englishmen at Chusan were determined to have milk for their tea, they set some of the Chinese to work, and for the first milk they got paid a dollar. The consequence was, that the Chinese set their wits to work, and began to keep cattle, and to produce both milk and butter: and now the civic service in China was supplied with some of the finest milk and butter that existed in the world.

JUSTICE IN AMERICA.

The New York journals record the case of a Judge who got into a squabble in a "rummery" (a low public-house) at Brooklyn, opposite the city of New York, and in the *melee* received a black eye, with which graceful accompaniment he was seen next day sitting on the judicial bench, sentencing to fine and imprisonment wretches brought before him for drunkenness!

WELLINGTON'S AUTOGRAPH, WRITTEN ON THE FIELD OF WATERLOO.

The stranger in passing through the M.S. room of the British Museum may have had his attention directed to an autograph suspended in a small unostentatious frame against the wall; and that autograph, if he be an Englishman, he will not readily forget. On horseback, on the field of Waterloo, in the midst of all the tumult and carnage of that terrible conflict, the steady hand of Wellington traced those characters, and his calm mind cast up the reckoning there inscribed, and disposed of the issue.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

ILL-TREATMENT OF A CHILD.—In the BAIL COURT, on Tuesday, an indictment was tried, the Queen v. Pelham, which charged the defendant, Mrs. Harriett Eleanor Pelham, with being an evil disposed person, and intending to injure Brent Spencer, her illegitimate son, by confining him in a dark room, and neglecting to provide him with necessary meat, drink, &c. The facts of the case were given recently in our police report. The present prosecution was instituted by the parish officers of St. Luke's, Chelsea. The defendant resided in Princes street, Chelsea, and was between fifty and sixty years of age, and had two children, her conduct towards the eldest of whom formed the ground of the present inquiry. His name was Brent Spencer, and he was an illegitimate son of the defendant, by the late General Sir Brent Spencer. Brent Spencer was between thirty and forty years of age. In the course of last year some noises were heard in the defendant's house, which attracted the attention of her neighbours, who proceeded to the magistrate at Queen-square Police-office, and having stated all they knew on the subject, solicited the interference of the police, which was allowed. Some policemen went to the defendant's house, and there they found Brent Spencer in a state of the utmost filth; his beard had been growing for years, he was covered with vermin, and had only a dirty shirt on.—The jury returned a verdict of Guilty on those counts only of the indictment which charged the defendant with having neglected to provide for the proper comfort, &c., of the lunatic.

MORE CUSTOM-HOUSE FRAUDS.—In the COURT OF EXCHEQUER, on Tuesday, an information was tried at the instance of the Customs' Department, arising out of an alleged fraud in the importation of silk goods. The Solicitor General, with Mr. Jervis and Mr. Wilde, appeared for the Crown; and Sir Thomas Wilde, Mr. Cockburn, and Mr. Humfrey appeared for the defendant. The case on behalf of the Crown was, that in March, 1842, the firm of Porter and Foster, in which the defendant was a partner, carrying on an extensive business as silk importers, in Wood-street, Cheapside, had consigned to them by the steamer *Harlequin*, from Boulogne, three cases marked F P, and numbered respectively 55, 56, and 57. The goods were landed upon what is called a sight entry, under the superintendence of a person named Noble, a clerk in the service of Messrs. Porter and Foster, who it was stated had since left England. The goods contained in the three cases were in due time inspected, the value declared, and the duty estimated according to the value entered in the Custom-house books. The landing waiter at the Custom-house in this transaction was a person named Arthur Bernis, and it was suggested that by his instrumentality fictitious entries of the quantity and value of the articles contained in the three cases landed from the *Harlequin*, were made in the blue book and other books of the Custom-house, so that the duty was estimated on a much smaller quantity of goods than had been really imported, and the revenue had been defrauded to a large amount. To illustrate the nature of the alleged fraud, as well as its extent, it was stated that the size of the case of goods numbered 57 was in cubical measure 26 feet 5 inches. Making a full allowance for wrappings, the thickness of the case, &c., there were 18 cubical feet to be filled with goods. The goods alleged by the importers to be in this case, and on which they actually paid duty, consisted only of five dozen of gloves, six mitts, twenty-two scarfs, three dozen cuffs, and five dozen cuffs. These goods packed ever so loosely could not occupy more than five feet, so that there were thirteen feet of this case unaccounted for. If it was packed in the usual manner it would contain 360lbs. of satin goods, on which the duty payable to Government would have been £354. Even if it contained plain silk, the duty would have been £240. The cases, however, were entered as containing so small a quantity of goods, and of so little value, that the total amount of duty payable to the Crown was only £157. This sum was paid by Mr. Noble, the clerk of Porter and Foster, who took away the goods, and after their departure from the Custom-house they had not been traced. To show that the defendant and his partner were cognizant of the transaction conducted by their clerk, it was proved that two £50 notes, received from the bank of Roberts and Co., in payment of a cheque drawn by Porter and Foster, had been paid at the Custom-house by Noble, on account of the duty for these particular cases. The case lasted the whole of Tuesday, and on Wednesday, after hearing Sir T. Wilde for the defendant, the Solicitor-General addressed the jury for the Crown. The Chief Baron having summed up the evidence, the jury returned a verdict for the Crown for the single value of the goods, £1176.

THE ALLEGED FRAUD BY MESSRS. SMITH, THE DISTILLERS.—The same Court was occupied on Thursday with the trial at bar of the case of the Attorney-General against the firm of Smith and Co., distillers, Whitechapel-road, for the recovery of £309,000 penalties. The Solicitor-General opened the case at length, but it is needless to repeat his statement, as we have already given the particulars of the alleged fraud upon the Excise. The cause was expected to last three days, but it came to a sudden close on Friday. At the sitting of the Court, the Solicitor-General stated, that in consequence of an informality in the writ, he could proceed no further in the case. It had arisen through the error of a clerk in the Remembrancer's Office, which he had fallen into through its being the first case of the kind he had had under the new act. Indeed, it was his opinion that the Court throughout had been sitting without proper authority, but under all the circumstances the cause would be at present withdrawn.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

THE ALLEGED CASE OF POISONING, AT UXBRIDGE.—On Thursday *Thos. Francis Dickman*, aged 19, was indicted for administering a quantity of oxalic acid to his wife, on the 15th of January, at Uxbridge. Prisoner and his wife had lived very unhappily together, and the wife before her marriage had a child, of which, however, the prisoner was aware. At breakfast that morning, after he left home, his wife and her sister noticed that the coffee had a peculiar appearance, and tasted sour. She drank one cup and soon after became very ill, but after taking an emetic felt better. The sugar and coffee were taken to a chemist's, who detected oxalic acid in the sugar, but, as he stated in evidence that there was only one part of it to twenty of sugar, and that though it might cause pain, so small a quantity would not prove fatal to an adult, on the suggestion of the Learned Judge, who stated that there was no evidence to show how he obtained the oxalic acid, or that he put it in the sugar, the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty." He was also indicted for administering oxalic acid to John Francis Dickman, his child, but there was no evidence offered in support of the charge, and the jury a second time acquitted him.

POLICE.

A BARONET'S DAUGHTER CHARGED WITH A ROBBERY AT A SHOP.
AT QUEEN SQUARE, on Saturday last, Miss Elizabeth Osborn, a fashionably-attired female, of about thirty-five years of age, who gave her address Earl's-court, Brompton, and represented herself to be the daughter of Sir John Osborn, was charged with stealing a pot of potted meat from the shop of Mr. Edward Allum, oilman and Italian warehouseman, Brompton.

J. Russell, shopman to the prosecutor, stated that a little after three o'clock that afternoon, he was serving a person in his master's shop, when he was attracted by the hurried manner in which the prisoner, who was being waited upon by another person, spoke. She had been there before as a customer, and he had observed the same peculiarity of manner about her. Immediately after this he saw her take up one of the pots of meat from a little stand on the counter, and then it appeared to him that she put it under her shawl; but seeing her moving the pots about with her hand immediately afterwards, he thought that she might have returned it. A boy who was then in the shop, being served, informed him that he had seen the prisoner take the pot, and witness, on examination of the pots, missed one from the number. He then spoke to Mr. Allum, and the prisoner, having paid for a small piece of soap she had bought, left the shop. Witness followed her, and after she had proceeded about thirty yards, asked her if she had paid for that pot of meat. At that moment she had a pot of meat in her hand, and said at first that she had purchased it at Archbutt's, and then at Gunter's. She then gave witness the pot she held in her hand, which was a pot of tongue, whilst that she had taken from prosecutor was either a pot of beef or of game. The pots in the row from which she had taken the day, and there was no tongue in the row from which she had taken the pot. The pot given to him by prisoner was wrapped in different paper to that used at his master's shop, and he asked her whether she had any objection to accompany him either to Archbutt's or Gunter's, when she replied that she had not. At that moment a Mr. Flather's porter came up, and said something about a lady who had been to their shop, and for whom he was looking. Witness and the prisoner then went towards Mr. Gunter's, and on looking, arriving in Sloane-street, at the very moment she was crossing a grating, prisoner dropped a pot on the grating; it broke, and some of it went through. Witness picked up all that he could, and found that it was a pot of beef, and so marked on the outside, with also the maker's initials. Witness then asked her if she had any more of them, and if so, not to drop them. Prisoner then took one from under her arm, and said she had purchased it and immediately afterwards that a lady had given it to her at Fulham; that was a pot of game. They then went to Gunter's, where witness ascertained that she had purchased one pot of meat there; but as she had the other he detained her. Prisoner then said she would pay him for all the pots, if he would let her go, when he replied that he would not for three times the value. She then said she would give him three times the value; he, however, refused to let her go, and sent for a policeman. During the time they were waiting for him prisoner amused herself by tearing the covers of a ream or half ream of note paper, which witness picked up. On the arrival of the police she was given into custody; and, on her way to the station, tore up some of the reams of paper, three or four sheets at a time. Some rice and groats were found on her person, which she said she had bought at Archbutt's. He found on part of the covers of the paper which he had picked up, "179, Sloane-street." Prisoner said she bought the tracts, four of which were also found upon her, at that address, but she did not say much about the paper. In answer to the clerk's inquiries, witness said one pot was found upon her (the one produced by her, and above alluded to); it was either game or beef. Those potted goods were nearly all made by the same person. The pot prisoner purchased at Gunter's was tongue. The maker of Gunter's was the same who made for prosecutor.

Thomas Gosmer, a lad about fifteen or sixteen years of age, said he lived

with Mr. Edward Faulkner, 3, Edward-street, Knightsbridge. Witness was at Mr. Allum's at a little after three that afternoon (having been sent to buy some Parmesan cheese), when he saw the prisoner take a pot of meat and place it under her shawl. She took it from a row on the counter. Witness told the young man, and when she was served with the soap she went out. Thomas Rowland, 135 B, said that he took the prisoner at Gunter's door, in Motcombe-street. Prisoner said she would pay for the pots, and then there would be nothing more for witness to do with it. She started with witness to the station, when he offered him half-a-sovereign to let her go. Witness replied that he could not, if she gave him £1000. Prisoner then said that if he would let her go she would give him her address, and he could call, and she would give him much more than she had said. She tore up some blank paper as she went along. She was searched at the station by a female, and nearly half a ream of note paper, half a pound of rice, a packet of groats, half a pound of soap, and a purse with half a sovereign and four shillings were found upon her, besides some religious tracts. The constable observed that the lady said she had bought and paid for the things found in her possession, and did not steal them.

Miss Osborn handed a note to the magistrate, observing, "You will be kind enough to look at the address on this note which I received this morning from a friend. I merely produce it to show that I am the person I represented myself to be." The lady then stated that when she came out of the prosecutor's shop, into which she went, as she had been in the habit of doing, to make a trifling purchase, the shopman followed her and asked her if she had got a pot of tongue, and not, as he had stated in his evidence, a pot of meat. She replied she had bought it at Gunter's, which was the fact. She had been in the habit of making purchases at Archbutt's, Gunter's, and other places in the neighbourhood, and had bought some of the things found upon her at these places; the rest she had brought from home with her that day, as she was about to take them somewhere. As regarded dropping the pot, she assured the magistrate it was entirely the effect of accident; and, with reference to making an offer to the shopman to pay for the pots, it was, of course, a most disagreeable affair, which she was much annoyed at. She was entirely innocent; there was nothing proved against her, as the shopman evidently did not know his own pots, they being all alike. The lady, after a slight pause, continued, and observed that she had brought the potted meats from her own house that day, and the paper she had purchased, she believed, at Murray's.

This, as also the former portion of her defence, was given in a very incoherent manner. Mr. Burrell asked her if she had any witnesses to call.—The lady replied in the negative.

Mr. Burrell intimated that she must be remanded.—Prisoner exclaimed, "Remanded!"

Mr. Burrell repeated the observation.—Miss Osborn: I bought the things. The shopman can't prove anything against me.

Mr. Burrell: He does to a certain extent.—Prisoner: I am Miss Osborn; of course you will allow me to go home?

Mr. Burrell: I cannot; I really cannot.—Prisoner: I have had potted meat and other things at my own house for some time. My servants can prove it.

Mr. Burrell: Have you any one here who can prove where you bought them?—Prisoner: I purchased them some time ago at some of the places I have mentioned. You will, of course, Mr. Burrell, permit me to return to my family. I am Sir John Osborn's daughter. Perhaps you will come and see him in the course of a few days.

Mr. Burrell: I cannot; I must do my duty.—Prisoner: You must take me home. My father will come and take me away. He'll not allow this.

Mr. Burrell: You must be remanded on this charge.—Prisoner: If I am not to go home, Mr. Burrell, where am I to go?

Mr. Burrell: You must go to prison. I must do my duty. It is painful—most painful—but I must do my duty.—Prisoner: You must come home with me and see my father.

Mr. Burrell repeated his last observation, and the lady was removed from the dock crying, and imploring the magistrate to release her.

She was remanded until the following Thursday. The prisoner, who was much excited, was accommodated with pen and ink, and addressed a note to Lady Osborn and to a female friend, which she requested might be immediately conveyed.

She was then removed to Tothill fields in the prison van.

On Monday a gentleman, who said he was an old friend of the family, came to the office, and inquired whether there was any opportunity of alleviating the lady's condition?—Mr. Bond, the magistrate, observed that he was not acquainted with the regulations of the prison.

The gentleman said that if magistrates or governors of prisons were to endeavour to ameliorate the condition of a respectable person, they would be immediately assailed on all sides, for making distinctions between the rich and poor. After a slight pause, the gentleman admitted that, to a certain extent, such distinctions were improper. He deeply regretted the situation in which the lady was placed; it was a most painful one for her family. He understood that she had been found with some groats, rice, and other things upon her?—The clerk said that such was the fact.

The gentleman said he had no doubt that she had purchased those things to give to some poor family. She was in the habit of visiting the poor, and relieving them.

Lady Osborn, who is, as may be conceived, in a very distressed state, was with her daughter for some hours, at the prison.

Miss Osborn was again brought up on Thursday, but no additional fact was elicited. The witnesses who had before made depositions, repeated their evidence, and were cross-examined by Mr. Clarkson on the part of the defendant. When this was done, Mr. Clarkson begged for a remand for a week or ten days, that he might be prepared to meet the case against his client, and also asked the magistrate to admit the prisoner to bail.

Mr. Burrell said all the magistrate had to look to was the security as to the prisoner again appearing, and upon Sir John Osborn and the Hon. Edmund Byng presenting themselves, they were accepted as the lady's bail.

Her own recognizances of £500, and the recognizances of Sir John and Mr. Byng in £250 were then accepted, and Miss Osborn was remanded until this day (Saturday) week.

SPRING-HEELLED JACK AGAIN.—At BRENTFORD Police-office, on Wednesday, a butcher named Richard Bradford was charged with having frightened a number of women in the neighbourhood of Hanwell and Ealing, by personating "Spring-heeled Jack." He was apprehended with a gown, shawl, and other accoutrements, but as none of the parties frightened appeared, he was discharged with a reprimand.

ROBBERY OF BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES.—At HAMMERSMITH Police-office, *Angus Gillies*, a respectable dressed man, about 35 years of age, full six feet high, who was formerly a police constable of the A division of the Metropolitan police, and also a constable in Edinburgh, and the Glasgow constabulary, was brought up for final examination before Mr. T. Paynter, on Wednesday, on a charge of having stolen the sum of £165 in Bank of England notes, the property of Mrs. Mary Lewis. The warrant upon which the prisoner was apprehended was issued at this court by Mr. Paynter, at the beginning of December last. This case has been already reported by us in its principal features. It will be recollected that the prisoner was paying his addresses to the prosecutor, and had been intrusted with the notes to change for her, on going with her to buy a business in the City, when he pretended to have lost them out of his pocket. He afterwards went to Inverness-shire, where he was apprehended. The notes were traced to him. He was committed for trial.

ELECTION OF SHERIFFS, AND REGAL CEREMONY OF PRICKING THE SHERIFFS' ROLL.

The appointment of a sheriff is one which involves the good ordering of a county, and relatively that of the country at large. The election is, consequently regarded with feelings of intense interest by the public, and with manifold sentiments of local attachment by the resident population of the various counties. We have, therefore, felt that the ceremonies connected with the elevation of a gentleman to the dignity of a "lord of the shire" presented eligible subjects for illustration. But before we proceed to describe the scenes shown in our engravings, it may assist in giving an intelligible view of the subject if we first describe the office itself.

The Shire Reeve or Sheriff is an officer of almost patriarchal antiquity, and known by a corresponding name in most countries in Europe. Adeling observes, that the twelve judges appointed by Odin were called *Greve*. Both the officer and the name have, with some variations, been retained in Germany. The *Graf* of the Germans is, for the most part, a title of dignity, answering to the Count of the French, and the Earl of this country; and, in some cases, it is also the title of a Prince, as the *Laudgraf* or *Markgraf*. Among the Anglo-Saxons, the *Gerefa*, or, as he was sometimes called, the Reeve, was an officer of justice inferior in rank to the Alderman. He was a Ministerial officer, appointed to execute processes, keep the peace, and put the laws in execution. He witnessed contracts, brought offenders to justice, and delivered them to punishment; took bail of such as were to appear before the shiregemote, or county court, and presided at the hundred court or folkmote. The Shire Gerefa, Shire-reeve, or Sheriff, was probably distinguished by the title of the King's Gerefa, because he more immediately executed the King's precepts, and sometimes sat in the place of the Alderman in the county court. He appears, also, to have been distinguished by the title of the *Heh-Gerefa*, or High-Sheriff. The Gerefa who acted in the titling was called the *Tithing-Reeve*; he who acted in the byrig or burgh, a Borough Reeve; and he who acted in the town, the *Tun-Gerefa*. The leading duties of this officer, in this country and the United States of North America, are the same as those performed by the Anglo-Saxon Gerefa, namely, of an executive, as distinguished from those of a judicial, kind.

Our account of the elective proceedings will be necessarily somewhat retrospective. On the morrow of St. Martin, 12th Nov., a Privy Council was held in the Court of Exchequer, to receive the report of the Judges of the persons eligible in the several counties to serve the office. On that occasion the chamber, which is the second and largest of the law courts in Westminster Hall, was crowded with country visitors, and in regard of the distinguished persons engaged in the transaction of business, presented an unusually gay appearance. On the bench sat the great representatives of every branch of the civil government, each one attired in his distinctive official costume. Commencing from the right hand, the eye first caught the spare figure of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, robed in a gown of figured

silk, trimmed with gold; then came two or three members of the Privy Council in comparatively private dresses; and to these succeeded the Lord Chancellor, looking brim full of caution, and resolved, apparently, that the right man should serve; Lord Denman—sagacious, mild, but determined; Sir Nicholas Tindal, full of wise saws and modern instances; Baron Parke, literally as sharp as a needle; and Sir James Graham, with several of his official associates, each one seeming to be calm and collected in the greatness of his might. In front of this "bed of justice," sat the Clerk of the Privy Council, the Justices Cresswell, Rolfe, and Coleridge, Baron Gurney, Justice Patteson, Baron Alderson, and the Chief Baron; and on the left of the bench, separated from the rest by a partition, sat the recording angel of the assembly, styled the "Remembrancer." Before this dread array, the shadow of an excuse against "serving" seemed to be simply an absurd venture. Nevertheless, such things were attempted. Few of the persons selected, seemed disposed to have the greatness of office thrust upon them; but to the honour of those who were ultimately chosen, it must be acknowledged that a determination was at once expressed to uphold the dignity of the office with the accustomed attention to its duties, and with a liberal regard to its renowned hospitality. At this meeting, the Judges reported the names of three fit persons for the office of Sheriff in each county; and of these the first on the list was chosen, except in cases where good reasons for exemption were shown. Some of these were, as might be expected, sufficiently ridiculous—every one seemed to be suddenly possessed with a sense of some paralyzing infirmity: young men pleaded they were too old, rich men too poor, strong men too weak, and the like. But these subterfuges were held to be merely points of routine—things of course; the right men were chosen; and then, such was the general satisfaction, that the very sick amongst them took up their beds of complaint, and walked. The list thus made was again considered at a meeting of her Majesty's Ministers held on the 29th January, at the house of Lord Wharncliffe, President of the Council, when the excuses of the parties nominated were again examined, and the names finally determined for the approval of her Majesty in Council. This important decision was pronounced on Monday afternoon, at Buckingham Palace, by her Majesty, in the presence of the principal members of the Cabinet. The mode followed by the Queen in making her decision, is the ancient and singular one, technically termed "pricking" for the right man. We have said that three "good men and true" are named for each county, one only being wanted; these names are recorded



HER MAJESTY PRICKING THE SHERIFFS' ROLL.

seriatim, on a long sheet of paper which is called the Sheriffs' Roll. On the back of this roll, black lines, coincident with the names on the written side, are ruled a line for a name, and in resolving the question, it is the custom of the Sovereign dealing with the matter in hand, in the manner of a lot, to prick with a pin, or other convenient sharp instrument, through any one of the three names placed against a county; and the gentleman whose name is thus pricked, is adjudged to discharge the onerous but most honourable duties of the Shrievalty.

This ceremony of pricking the list, is one of great antiquity, and at its original institution, did, unquestionably, give the nominee the chance of a Royal ballot; but now, in these responsible days, it is usual, we believe to relieve the Sovereign of all peradventure in her choice, by placing a pencil mark against the desirable name.

We subjoin the list:—

ENGLAND.
Bedfordshire—William Bartholomew Higgins, of Turvey, Esq.
Berkshire—John Bligh Monck, of Coley Park, Esq.
Buckinghamshire—Edmund Francis Dayrell, of Lillingstone Dayrell, Esq.
Cambs. and Hunt.—John Bonfoy Rooper, of Abbotts Kipton, Esq.
Cumberland—Timothy Petherstone, of the College, Kirkoswald, Esq.
Cheshire—Sir William Thomas Stanley Massey Stanley, of Hooton, Bt.
Derbyshire—Thomas Fares, of Hopwell, Esq.
Devonshire—Edward Simcoe Drewe, of the Grange, Esq.
Dorsetshire—Edward Balstod, of Corfe-hill, Esq.
Durham—John William Williamson, of Wickham, Esq.
Essex—George Round, of Colchester, Esq.
Gloucestershire—Edmund Hopkinson, of Edgworth-house, Esq.
Herefordshire—James King King, of Staunton-park, Esq.
Hertfordshire—Sir Henry Meux, of Theobald's-park, Bart.
Kent—Sir Moses Montefiore, of East Cliff, St. Lawrence, Thanet, Knt.
Leicestershire—William Corbet Smith, of Bitteswell, Esq.
Lincolnshire—Thomas Coltman, of Hag-nay Priory, Esq.
Monmouthshire—William Phillips, of Whitson-house, Esq.
Norfolk—Theophilus Russell Buckworth, of Cockley Cley, Esq.
Northamptonshire—The Honourable Richard Watson, of Rockingham Castle.
Northumberland—Ralph Carr, of Hedgley, Esq.
Nottinghamshire—William Hodgson Barrow, of Southwell, Esq.
Oxfordshire—John Sidney Noth, of Wroxton Abbey, Esq.
Rutlandshire—Henry Beaumont Pierrepont, of Ryhall, Esq.
Shropshire—St. John Chiverton Charlton, of Apley Castle, Esq.
Somersetshire—John Lee Lee, of Dillington-house, Esq.
Staffordshire—Charles Smith Forster, of Hampstead-hall, Esq.
County of Southampton—Sir Richard Goden Simeon, of Swainstone, Isle of Wight, Bart.
Suffolk—Henry Wilson, of Stowlang-toft, Esq.
Surrey—Richard Fuller, of the Hookery, Dorking, Esq.
Sussex—James Baril Daubux, of Offington, Esq.
Warwickshire—James Roberts West, of Alscoate, Esq.
Wiltshire—Wade Browne, of Monkton Farleigh, Esq.
Worcestershire—Thomas Simcox Esq., of Astley-hall, Esq.
Yorkshire—Sir William Bryan Cooke, of Wheatley, Bart.

WALES.
Anglesey—Robert Jones Hughes, of Plas Llaugod, Esq.
Brecknockshire—William Williams, of Abeypergwm, Esq.

Carmarthenshire—Postponed.
Carmarthenshire—David Jones, of Glanbrany-park, Llandovery, Esq.
Cardiganshire—John Lloyd Davies, of Altyrodro, Esq.
Denbighshire—Charles Wynne, of Garmello, near Cerrigydruidioy, Esq.
Flintshire—Ralph Richardson, of Greenfield-hall, Esq.
Glamorganshire—Robert Savours, of Trecaeste, Esq.
Merionethshire—Richard Watkin Price, of Rlywias, Esq.
Montgomeryshire—John Winder Lyon Winder, of Vaynor-park, Esq.
Pembrokeshire—Abel Lewis Gower, of Castlemalgwynne, Esq.
Radnorshire—James Davis, of Colva, Esq.



PRIVY COUNCIL IN THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER.—ELECTION OF SHERIFFS.

THE FOURTEENTH OF FEBRUARY:

A GOSSIP ABOUT THE DAY,

WITH

A STORY OF A VALENTINE.

Most—nay, we may as well lump in the whole year, and say *all months*—have their peculiar celebrations—their features of social idiosyncrasy—their days of episode and adventure in human life, and the world still dates many of its joys and sorrows from these milestones on the road of time—these guide-posts of our journey through thorns or flowers, to, ay, and far, far beyond, the grave.

To some the months of the year are like a fair, fantastic row of beautiful country cottages, built amid fields of plenty, inhabited by happy inmates, and with sunshine gleaming upon every window, and leaving brightness on the threshold of every door of the twelve. Others take them as so many cells of a workhouse or a prison, where happiness cannot come. But the large majority make an April of the entire time, and blend smiles and tears, cloud and sunshine, in the changing rainbow that spans their year of life.

Still, we live on, and know every month by its characteristics; and the leading records and landmarks of our Old English Almanacks do not pass away any more than the signs of the Zodiac vanish from the heavens.

Par example. March is still the month of early storms, and will carry the tempest upon its wings, social as well as meteorological—in spite of that amiable lady, Lady Day, whose only consolation to families is that in *that quarter* there is the less difficulty in *raising the wind*.

April, again, has provided society with a fancy for increasing the number of its fools—a measure which, periodically as it is carried, has always appeared to us to be totally unnecessary as the world is constituted.

Fools I vow,
Fools enow!

But to be an April-fool seems to be the *acmé* of that kind of distinction.

And society still has its puerile whim,
To ride on a rainbow, and slide down its rim!

May dawns upon us with a better pleasantry and begins to bring us flowers. In old times too it made our villagers happy—there were rural queens crowned, and we beat Lord Dudley Stuart hollow in our sympathy for the Poles—the English Poles—the Maypoles! Now in order that life may never be without its contrasts, we have dedicated that month of brightness to the weeps, and its visions of beauty are peopled with dancing shovels and Jacks in the Green!

June is a sort of month of glory for us every way. The victories of Howe and Wellington blend with its warm and kindling breath. June is a great star in England's memory.

July is more for France—there the Gallic cock crows for three days over its Revolution, and a nation dates its liberty from the burning skies, and the red blood that ran in the streets of Paris! The grapes ripen fast too then—and the juice gets hot and rich, and has a tickling under its fruity skin to be squeezed by some embracing angel of a vintner, who will turn it into *la fette*, chateau margaux, and champagne. On second thoughts then, July is as good for England as for France—for, *manes of Bacchus!* how should we ever get on without our wine? Any adventure must be pleasant that dates itself from the turning of the first dozen of claret into a bottle-guard of marines, and on parade—*under the table!*

August—the berry-brown month and the beginning of harvest!—The wheat ripened! Ha! and this is a great month for horses, and from it they date their corn.

September! Well, mankind put on their sporting jackets, and boys that have grown out of spring-ship look to fire their first shot in life. The birds that went up in striding now come down—the game of existence is more murdered than played—and even in the cities men walk with partridge canes!

October—ale, all ale!
November—fog, all fog—and Guys in every guise!
December—Christmas Day.

January—New Year's Day and Twelfth Night! These two months, the kings of the old and new—these are the very fathers of the families, the gods of the domestic Olympus, which is not exactly situated on high, like Jupiter's—but in the parlour and around the hearth.—It never mounts beyond the drawing-room, and doesn't scruple to descend to the kitchen fire.

For all this we believe that there are more *data* of human happiness and adventure to be gathered out of February than any other month, for

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF VALENTINES!

The birds are spared by juvenile humanity—the cry of the rustic is no longer “What a many nestes!” and the love-doves are allowed to pair. Now is there beautiful marriage in the temple of Nature—and by the bright birth of spring the children of that wedding will be the heavenly spirits of the groves and skies! Whatever happiness the year brings us, the young birds harbingers in with song. The lark sings it at the gate of heaven—ay! and at the listening human heart that hears it from the earth. Nature may be said to revel then in the inexpressible joyousness of her own happy voice. There is much in the influence of birds upon the elevation or depression of the spirits of men; but more, far more, upon those of woman. Beranger cheers a friend going into exile with the promise of return; and he catches a simile, and a sweet one, even from the tuneless swallow that makes us dull when it leaves our homesteads, and glads us when it comes again.

The birds that winter puts to flight
Will all return in spring!

Continual imagery of the most lovely nature sparkles in the verses of our sweetest domestic poets, like gold upon the wings of the humming-bird; and even the departure of a fair and heavenly human spirit has made its flight towards the angels with the lark! Harvey thus paints the spring-death of a grief-struck maiden.

The lark is up, and in his flight upon his morning way,
But she shall be before him yet amid the purer day;
And half way up at Heaven's gate from earth men heard him sing,
But Inez pass'd him in his flight, and with a lighter wing!
Coleridge has most honoured the nightingale; but still have birds and love been ever associated in the gentler thoughts of our kind. Even but a moment past we had stolen of our muse a

BIRD SONG.

The bird that I cherished
Has dropt on its wing,
And the spirit has perished
That warmed it to sing;
And the light merry warble
That woe would assuage,
Has fled with that spirit
Away from its cage!
Hope, bird of my bosom,
That solaced my care,
In my heart of affection
Sang merrily there;
It is hushed—Hope is dying
Joy liveth not long;
Now my sad heart is sighing
For bird and for song!

And so—from this involuntary and natural association of imagery in the human mind—the metaphysical analogy which bore its link of beauty from the lovers of birds to the affections of our common family, the types of innocence and happiness which they shadowed forth to our purer thoughts and fancies—from these sprung *Valentines*. The young and fair, the brave and beautiful, were to date their loves from the loves of the feathered choristers, and the happiness of thousands of human beings was to begin with its memory from the wooing of a bird.

Valentines have lost much of their influence. They neither do the serious nor the merry mischief which they used. They once had a twofold character—half dangerous, half playful—now they winged the arrows of Cupid, now they revelled in the frolics of Puck. There was a sort of fantastic euphuism in some Valentines; they would smack of the grotesqueness of Elizabethan dandyism, and partake of the sly respect and prim mannerism of an ancient gallantry. But these were the Valentines of neutrality, which neither meant passion nor malice; they were the compliments which a young man would pay to girls of his acquaintance for whom he cared nothing.

The real strength of the Old English Valentine lay, as we said before, in two descriptions. One was the larking Valentine, which entered into the humour of the common and middle classes. Mistress Page and Mistress Ford would have sent such an one to Falstaff. The Merry Wives! the saucy chuckling Falstaff! Fun and mischief were its elements. Look! Gil Bias has copied one, instead of a sermon, for the Archbishop of Granada to preach on the next high-day: and Dulcinea has sent one by Sancho Panza—a yard measure in a windmill—to Don Quixote! But to come to more modern times, and to stick to our own country, where, with all deference to Le Sage and Cervantes, we still feel most at home; to plunge, we say, into our English present, and—if this last thought be not official sacrilege—to imagine Sir James Graham opening Valentines in St. Martin's le Grand. What a source of agitation have we here!

A Comic Valentine for Sir James himself. Ode to a basin of workhouse broth, with fancy portrait of a French sigh, and the motto of “*Soup here!*” verses on boar hunting, to Brougham, with the question of “*Why shouldn't one bore hunt another?*”—Cobden's petition to Peel to forbid sliding, and crimp all the skates—device, a bundle of foreign corn, and Peel *boxing the ears!* Again, poetry to the lessee of Vauxhall Gardens, with two portraits, one of the confidential friend of Don Carlos, and another of Brougham's place at Cannes—title, “*The New Vauxhall, and the Modern Ranelagh!*” Then, perhaps, a note and picture for Gibbs—a wall and a brook—the ledger on the wall, like Humpty Dumpty, getting a great fall into the brook, and the water running after it!—and so on.

But in the family of social life the Valentine Comic makes the sport—so as are the squibs and crackers in November, are the Valentines in February great guns for the toyshop! There you see them in every form of the amatory burlesque—in every phase of personality and caricature; and friends and acquaintances, and pretty men and ugly women, and people one has a spite against, and people one has a joke against, get letters such as never came before.

On St. Valentine's Day all the postmen get a pound of glaze made into soup, in the morning, to enable them to support the weight of the mischief they have to carry during the day. They form the real Metropolitan Delivery Company—those penny postmen—after all!

But we come now to the last description of Valentine, the real honest fervent missive of love, which often took this timid form of expression, this anonymous declaration of tenderness, which for the kingdom of *sweet-heart-dom* it dared not have spoken out until it had made soundings and discovered by the effect of the Valentine how the deep and dwelling fondness was likely to be received. Often, too, would meek and modest maidens make playful confession in these sweet epistles, and in after hours the rustic swains of our villages, were sure to trace the truth in the hearts and eyes of the blushing writers. These Valentines were really the innocent love-links of the humbler classes, and while they would infuse anxiety, and thought, and affection, and curiosity, and sometimes disappointment into a thousand minds—they often carried balm to a wounded heart, blessings to a happy spirit, and woke the first blush of felicity that were to crown a life!

One little incident—a single feature of which has been beautifully described by our Artist in his illustration of this rambling paper, may serve to disclose a glimpse of the happiness that has been sometimes heralded in by a Valentine.

There had been a storm in the Channel on the night of the 13th of February, and vessels were lying at anchor in the Downs on the morning following—their captains and crews surveying the contingencies of damage that might have befallen them from the storm, and how many of them could go on or must put back to rest or repair. Some had shattered masts and rent sails—“shivered timbers,” and torn canvass, and not a few were swinging upon one cable, the other having been snapped in the gale. Several boats were putting off for the coast shore, either for pilotage, or the opportunity of sending word of their want to the nearest harbour, so that the fresh tackle might be ready when the ship got round; others on the *pretext* of business, but with reasons that had truly more to do with their affections than their ships. Out of one of these boats a handsome young sailor landed upon the sands

and bounded over the nearest cliff, which he descended on the other side, and making towards a cove of beautiful shrubbery, passed within it towards one of those lovely districts of scenery which fringe the coast of Kent—hidden only from the Channel's world of waters by the intervening woods and foliage screening the sea from sight, and giving an inland character to the rural landscape. Yet could the inmates of the pretty, straggling village, which the young sailor now saw beyond him, hear the far-sounding waters in the time of storm; and the voice of the wreck, and the booming signal of danger would make itself heard through the tempest in those peaceful homes.

The sailor threaded the cove, and was soon on the outskirts of the village—he crossed a stile—looked down a green meadow towards the garden gate of a rustic cottage beyond—saw a fair anxious girl fly from the window and bound along the flower-fringed path—and before he could reach the gate Blanche Woodham was in the arms of her lover. Poor girl, all her heart was with the being on whom she rested then, and her young and warm affections were fervently and honestly returned. But she was sad. Like the other girls of the village she had not been skipping about her cottage on the hoity-toity look out for a Valentine, nor had she ever opened one of the four or five which so innocent and beautiful a creature was certain to receive from the love-lavish admirers of the hamlet and its vicinity; but she had come forth to a heavy duty—the sadness of a “sweet sorrow”—the parting from her brave beloved. Charley Russit went to meet her with his heart full—but made short work of his parting with Blanche. He pressed her warmly to his heart—covered her sweet brow and tearful eyes with kisses—and, finding his own blinding his sight, put into her hands, as he clasped them over it, a small cased bible, saying—“Keep it for my sake, Blanche, and God bless you.”—Then plunging from her and rushing across the meadow—not daring to look behind him—he was soon upon the cliff, and in the boat, and on the billow, and again on board the white-winged vessel that was to fly with him to the other end of the earth!

One year had elapsed since the departure of young sailor Russit, and the fourteenth of February had come round again. The morning rose through a half frosty dawn, clear, cold, and bitter, and with that placid calm in the icy atmosphere which so often succeeds a winter storm. There had been a tempest, and poor Blanche had passed a night of terror from the oppressive visions which the storm had scattered through her sleep.

The inmates of the cottage were all astir; they are up with the birds on St. Valentine's Day, those rustic villagers; work and health are their portion—no town hours for them.

But Blanche took a whim into her head—a fitful fancy—that wore, withal,



VALENTINE'S DAY.—DRAWN BY PHIZ.

a half-superstitious plety. She had never opened the pocket-bible given her by her lover, when they had parted that day year! It was a perfect bijou of a book; so handsomely bound—so carefully encased in its new morocco cover: she had held it as a relic not to be touched till they should be again together; it should be as good when he came home as when he went away—she had been, or tried to be so—and the sacred treasure should be opened—her heart had whispered in its happiness—when they went to church! Besides, the large home-bible had a large full type, and she could read that more easily, and then no questions would be asked, and no idle curiosity teasing her about dear Charles's present.

But this morning, after the dreadful storm and a dreadful dream,—though her prayer had lulled her fear a little—she felt an irrepressible desire to read a chapter of consolation out of her lover's bible; so after she had arranged a few of her earliest homely duties, she stole back to her little chamber, unlocked her little drawer of treasures, took forth the precious volume, and drawing it from its case, opened the leaves, and found..... A VALENTINE!

She uttered a cry of joy, and in her innocent confidence rushed down stairs to let all know that she had got a Valentine from Charles! Oh, it was a good omen.

Now behold the pretty Blanche in the village cottage. What a sensation has she not already roused in that humble dwelling. They are all around her, and even the dumb animals wonder what magic is in that letter. Look at the face of beaming affection of the man who helps to hold the letter, and helps to read it, too, as he half quizzes the young creature's interest and delight. Look at the young sister behind her, entering into her joy with a sort of shy wide-awakeness, as much as to say, “I know all about it—my turn next!” Look at the tinier girl in front, with the full stare of curiosity, only rivalled by the knowing little ferret, who cocks his ears and harks! The very magpie listens upon its perch; the very hound is attentive; as for the old Dame Woodham, she is betrayed out of her household vigilance, and lets the cat—sly puss!—get at the cream-dish, while she bends her gaze on Blanche. The gun in the corner is half inclined to go off with curiosity; and the clock looks as if it dare not disturb the Valentine by striking until it is read.

Well, and now it is read what is it? A bible was an odd case for so frivolous a thing as a Valentine! But this Valentine was not frivolous—though Blanche was a year after date in the getting of it.

It was a small note, with a rudely drawn landscape—a rough, spirited, sailor-like sketch of the village and the village church, and underneath it was written, in a hand frank and open as the heart of the writer:—

“DEAREST BLANCHE,

“This is Valentine's Day that we part on. When next I come here over the sea, the first spot I seek will be this village—the next, if you will bless me, that church; and after we have come from it, wedded and happy, I hope the comfort and guide of our lives may be the scriptural wisdom that is in the holy book, in which, dearest Blanche, I now place

“MY VALENTINE.”

Well, this was read, and before either the dogs or the gun, or even the little child, knew what it was about, the clock struck for very joy, and with its last tingle a young sailor burst into the cottage, and caught Blanche in his arms.

A beautiful vessel had been half wrecked in the over-night's tempest, and now lay anchored in the downs—crew and cargo safe, but still a sad spectacle of havoc. With the first brush of daylight, however, after the storm was weathered, Charley Russit had pushed ashore, climbed the cliff, cleared the meadow, and in the cottage of Dame Woodham, now claimed

HIS VALENTINE!

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CHIT CHAT.

IMPARTIAL OPINION.—In our country, many a man owes his tolerated reception to the previous fame of his sire, but the good people of St. Petersburg, it appears, are not influenced by any such respect. A son of Tamburini has recently had the mortification of being hissed off the stage in the presence of his father.

MISS LOUISA BASSANO.—This young lady, a pupil of our Royal Academy, has made a most decided hit in the part of *Cenerentola*, at the theatre La Fenice, Venice. The Venetians form a very critical audience, but, nevertheless, our fair countrywoman came off with flying colours. She has a most beautiful contralto voice.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 9.—Quadragesima; First Sunday in Lent.
 MONDAY, 10.—Queen Victoria married, 1840.
 TUESDAY, 11.—Washington born, 1723.
 WEDNESDAY, 12.—Lady Jane Grey and her husband beheaded, 1554.
 THURSDAY, 13.—Massacre of Glencoe, 1691.
 FRIDAY, 14.—St. Valentine.
 SATURDAY, 15.—The National Debt commenced, 1500.

HIGH WATER at London-bridge, for the week ending Feb. 15.

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.	h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m. h. m. a. m.
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"An Essex Subscriber."—There are few commissions which are not obtained by purchase.
 "A Disciple of Esculapius."—The list would occupy too much room.
 "A Reader and Well-wisher."—The property in question will not be forfeited.
 "Zurvanthe."—The Law of Copyright applies equally to books and music.
 "A Subscriber."—Puddington.—The ballad of "Every Land my Home" can be obtained only in our journal.
 "A Subscriber."—Armagh, does not state his object.
 "A Subscriber."—Brighton.—A map of London in the fifteenth century is a rarity.
 "J. H." St. Paul's.—A work entitled "The Chemist" is published monthly. The best work on chemical manipulation is by Professor Faraday.
 "F. S. N." Chatham.—The executor will be entitled to the proportion of the annuity to the day of the widow's demise.
 "L. M. H."—A letter addressed to the Distressed Governess' Institution, London, will, doubtless, reach the proper quarter.
 "W. L." Lynn, should address a note to the publisher of the work he mentions.
 "Geraldine Castleford."—The penny postage extends to Great Britain and Ireland.
 "A Subscriber."—The postage of our journal to Paris is one halfpenny.
 "Inquisitor" should write to the manager of a London theatre.
 "Bristol Chatter" is informed by "C. C." R.N., that the tenor of Exeter Cathedral is in the key of B natural, and weighs 67 cwt.—that peal being by far the heaviest in the United Kingdom. In return, "C. C." begs "Bristol Chatter" to state the key of St. Mary Redcliff's tenor, Bristol, also its weight.
 "A Fair Subscriber" may dismiss her doubt: there is no advance in marriage fees during Lent.
 "Trotty Veck."—The engraving of the Pottinger Banquet was from a drawing by a Manchester artist.
 "Clericus H." should apply to a carver and gilder, or fancy stationer. The price of the View of London in 1842 is 1s.
 "M. H." Kirkcudbright, should remit 1s. 6d.
 "S. S." should appeal to the Commissioners of Income Tax in her district.
 "R. B. M." is thanked.
 "A Learner" should consult the work itself.
 "W. M."—We are not aware if either of the Landseers has painted a lion hunt.
 "Whist," Kilkenny.—We do not undertake to settle card disputes.
 "Modena" should address a letter to Messrs. Blackwood, Edinburgh.
 "W. W." Cliffe Vicarage, is entitled to the Large Print.
 "K. Y. Z." should see the nouvelle in our present No.
 "A Subscriber." Rye, should provide himself with the Treatise on Wood Engraving, published in our journal.
 "Lieut. W. J. M."—We have not room for the journal.
 "H. W." suggestion shall be attended to.
 "W. W."—The property would be divided only among the children born in wedlock.
 "J. H." Edinburgh.—The subscriber should provide himself with an extra copy of the key.
 "W. W." Margate.—See the Key to our View of London in 1845.
 "R. C."—We do not understand the gist of our correspondent's letter.
 "J. K." should apply to a respectable solicitor.
 "G. H." Northampton.—"Harding's System of Short hand."
 "W. C." Stratford.—The amount is so small, as not to be worth remittance.
 "R. B. C."—We are not aware of the address.
 "Curioso."—See our present No.
 "J. T." should apply to Mr. Doughty, Bridgewater.
 "A Constant Subscriber," Bere Regis.—The impression will be exchanged.
 "H. H." Grantham.—Kitchen windows are liable to duty.
 "R. M. C." will, probably, favour us with a sketch.
 "A. Z." Maidstone, should apply to the Sun Assurance Office. The selling-out will be unprofitable.
 "J. E." Huddersfield.—The partner to whom the apprentice is bound must provide him with another situation.
 "J. S." Jersey; "Hic et Ubique" North Wales; "H. S." Jersey, are thanked for their offers of sketches. In part of our impression, the lines beneath the Jersey and Guernsey views were transposed.
 "Civits."—Our correspondent's long letter does not change our opinion of the sad tragedy at New Zealand.
 "Ineligible."—Lines, by E. J. B.; Translation, by L. B.; Lines, by J. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Imagination and Fancy; or Selections from the English Poets. By Leigh Hunt.—Lectures on Painting and Design. By B. R. Haydon.—The French Instructor. By Mille. Tiesset.—Ocean Thoughts. By a Young Officer.—The Shipmaster's Guide. Third Edition.—Scale of Medicines for the Merchant Service. By Charles M'Arthur, M.D.—Confessions of the Ideal. By T. Powell.—True at Last. A Tragedy.—Remarks on New Zealand. By Walter Brodie.—Tom Racquet. By C. W. Manby.—The Poor Law Guardian and Parish Officer's Hand-book. By Philip Danvers.—Letters on Mesmerism. By Harriet Martineau.—Letter to the Commissioners of the Court of Bankruptcy.—An Examination of Sir Robert Peel's Currency Bill of 1844.—The Auction of Caps. By W. H. Paglar.—Money, or, the Moral Power of Exchange. By John Smith.—Tahiti, the English Protestant Missions in the South Seas, Translated from the French of Mark Wilks.
 PERIODICALS AND SERIALS.—Punch, Vol. VII.—Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Vol. V., Part 2.—The North British Review, No. IV.—Chambers's Miscellany of Useful and Entertaining Tracts, 1 vol.—The Naval and Military Sketch-book, Part I.—The Musical Bouquet, Part I.—Murray's Home and Colonial Library, Nos. XVI. and XVII.—Knight's Shilling Volume, Nos. XXXII. and XXXIII.—The Cabinet History of England, Vols. I. and II.—Fanny, the Little Miller, No. III.
 MAGAZINES FOR FEBRUARY.—Parker's London.—West of England Miscellany.—Wade's London Review.—Polytechnic Review and Magazine.—Cruikshank's Table-book.—Jerrold's Shilling Magazine.—Churton's Literary Register (No. 1).—The Illuminated Magazine.—The Church of England Magazine.—The Banker's Magazine.—New Sporting.—Farmer's.—Simmonds's Colonial.—The Student; or Young Men's Advocate.—Fraser's Magazine.—Dublin University.—Ainsworth's Magazine.—The Mirror.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1845.

THE Parliamentary Session was opened with the usual formalities on Tuesday last, rather more than the ordinary interest having been raised by the rumoured probability of the young Prince of Wales being present. This proved to be unfounded, but the scene was a pleasing one, nevertheless. The interior of the House of Peers was never more brilliant with female rank and beauty; on every side were waving plumes, that seem to have a sort of pride and loftiness in the midst of their graceful flexibility—and wreaths of flowers, that have more of the pretty and gentle—and bands and sparkling jewels—all speaking of rank and wealth, and lending splendour to loveliness. The Peers' benches were occupied by a whole host of fair invaders, who also filled every corner of every gallery; wherever the eye turned it fell on a mass of gay dresses and fine forms. As nearly every place was full an hour before the Queen arrived, the time was wiled away in animated conversation; and the murmur of soft voices rose on all sides, discussing the merits, and the demerits too, perhaps, of the dress and deportment of the last comers, the volume of sound increasing perceptibly on the appearance of a more than usually splendid uniform, or costume that presented anything particularly remarkable. An Indian Prince or dignitary of some kind or other was thus honoured with the special notice of everybody on account of his splendid tunic of silver tissue and satin. So close were the Peers and Judges packed together in the centre of the House, that it was one solid mass of scarlet and white. The new Judge, Mr. Baron Platt, was distinguishable at once by the lustrous purity of his ermine. Not that there can be

said to be a spot or stain on that of his learned brethren of the Judicial Bench; but there was a freshness and unworn appearance about his robes that marked him out as the last creation. The corps diplomatique abounded in orders, moustachios, and uniforms, as usual. The Duke of Wellington was in the body of the House for a few minutes before the arrival of the Queen, conversing with the Peers around him. His ducal robes do not improve his appearance; the full drapery takes off from his height, and he seems to stoop more under them than in his old familiar tweed wrapper, or plain blue frock. When he re-appeared, bearing the Sword of State before her Majesty, we thought his step was less firm and his walk more feeble than usual, but it might be the pressure of the crowd through which he had to move. Lyndhurst was there, looking as cheerful and active as ever, and wearing his Chancellor's robes more carelessly than he did his barrister's gown; he goes through all ceremonials with extreme nonchalance and a careless ease that is rather amusing. From the smiles that break forth, and the laughter not seldom heard ringing in his vicinity, we should imagine that his lordship's conversation is less dry and more amusing than a page of Sugden, on Powers, among which there is not a chapter on the power of making a joke, though it is one which Lord Lyndhurst is exceedingly fond, and capable too, of exercising. Brougham we did not see, and, therefore, presume he must have been absent, for his face is not one to escape notice even in a crowd. Campbell was there holding much talk with the Judges; peers of less note were scattered among the mass. But all questions of who is that? and where is he? were stayed at once on the entrance of her Majesty, who looked remarkably well, and discharged her royal duty with very graceful dignity.

THE opening debate on the Queen's Speech this session was more than usually animated and interesting. The topics introduced into it by allusion, opened a wide field; there were the visits of Foreign Monarchs, the improved state of trade, the Income Tax (which is to be continued), the Tahiti quarrel happily accommodated, Irish Education, the Bequests Bill, the health of towns, the increase in the Naval force; in all this there was enough for a month's debate, at least, did not custom confine the discussion to generalities, and reserve argument till each specific subject is introduced to be affirmed or negated.

The most remarkable feature of the debate was the explanation given by Mr. Gladstone of the cause of his retirement from office. It was scarcely expected by the House, but the right hon. gentleman felt bound, as soon as possible, to set at rest all doubts and rumours on the subject. He rose early in the evening, and the fact of one who was last seen and heard from the Treasury Bench, speaking from the lower end of the House, at a distance from that envied locality, had about it something strange and novel. The members on both sides listened with marked attention, for Mr. Gladstone is respected for his talents and character by those who are opposed to his opinions. He explained the scruple of conscience that has produced his self-exile from office. It does not spring from any difference on commercial legislation, nor from any contemplated measure affecting the English or Irish Church, but from a repugnance to support as a Minister an extension of the grant for the purpose of educating a Roman Catholic priesthood, about to be proposed by Sir R. Peel. He cannot reconcile a support of such a grant with the principles laid down in his work on the connexion of the Church with the State. We cannot ourselves see that this principle can be more violated by an increase of the grant than by the vote that has been passed annually for so many years, and to which Mr. Gladstone has been, as a Member of the Government, a consenting party. A principle opposed to it would be as much violated by giving one pound for such a purpose, as by bestowing thousands. Sir R. Peel asserts, and truly, that the grant is a matter of contract in which Parliament is legally bound as one of the conditions of the Act of Union, the grant itself being a legacy from the Irish Parliament, by whom it was first bestowed; and that Parliament was exclusively Protestant, no Catholic being allowed to sit in it; how an increase in the amount of that sum could raise a question of principle we cannot clearly perceive; that it should do so in the mind of a statesman, who must provide for the exigencies of reality, is still more strange. But it is the peculiar bent of Mr. Gladstone's mind to refine on every question into subtlety, and to draw distinctions that, to every one but himself, are invisible. We have heard him do this on commercial questions, till he became obscure with that darkness, which Milton describes as springing from "excess of light." How much more likely this is to happen on a matter involving points of theology, is easy to conceive. As a sense of vision too keen would destroy much of the pleasure of life, by rendering natural objects painfully repulsive, so may the mind refine upon the complex questions presented to the political ruler, till the course of action necessary to avert an evil may become impossible. Men of this class of mind are given, like Hamlet, to "thinking too precisely of the event," and thus their—

Native hue of resolution
 Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
 And enterprises of great pith and moment,
 In this respect their currents turn awry
 And lose the name of action.

But, in addition to this, Mr. Gladstone suffers under the greatest calamity that can befall a statesman—the misfortune of having written a book; the abiding quality of the *littera scripta* is proverbial; there it is, however the writer may change, even though from error to truth, constantly quotable against him, by those who have an object in reminding others of the discrepancy between his present acts and his past opinions. Several of our statesmen have suffered from this cause; a passage from one of the works of Lord J. Russell, referring to the Wesleyan Methodists, circulated at a critical juncture, was one of the principal causes of his damaging defeat in the election for South Devon. Sir J. Graham's "Corn and Currency" has been an exhaustless magazine in the hands of his opponents, to whom he himself furnished their most effective weapons of attack. True, he bears the pitiless peltings he receives with it with exemplary fortitude, answering only by a sarcastic smile to the frequent quotations from the unlucky work. But Mr. Gladstone has not the official stoicism of the Home Secretary, and does not wish to expose himself, for the sake of office, to the taunts that might possibly be thrown out against him for having, in his writings, been a champion of principles utterly opposed to Romanism, and by his official acts, a party to an increase of the means and efficacy of a College for the Roman Catholic priesthood. The retirement of Mr. Gladstone is a conscientious one; it is to be regretted, for the sake of the public service; but the motive that led to it can take nothing from the general estimation with which he is regarded.

DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF NASSAU.—A letter from Frankfort of the 29th ult. announces the death of the Duchess of Nassau, daughter of the Grand Duke Michael. On the 27th her Imperial Highness was delivered of a female child, still-born, and early the next morning the duchess expired under a severe attack of spasms at the heart. Her Imperial Highness was born on the 26th of May, 1826, and was consequently in her 19th year. On the 31st January, 1844, she married his Royal Highness the Reigning Duke of Nassau. The deceased duchess was a beautiful woman. She had a fair complexion, fine blue eyes, and was, altogether, a picture of youthful health and loveliness before her illness.

GAIETIES AND GRAVITIES OF THE WEEK.

The war of Party has commenced, and here we are once more in the heart of Parliamentary struggle. Go it, Government; go it, Opposition! Defend—deprecate—shout—cheer—laugh—chuckle! Keep your bear-garden alive! Well, but this is not a respectful way to speak of a Parliament; this Legislature of ours is no Yankee Congress—no house of uproar and spittoons; it is a gentlemanly national muster of the representatives of the people. So be it then, you shall have it your own way, reader, and at once we put on for you the armour of decorum.

Way there—way there, my masters, for those cream-coloured steeds! Check not the road of Royalty through that beautiful park. Feast your eyes if you will upon that grand pageantry, and your hearts upon the smiling face of your Queen; but press not too rudely around her as she goes with her own gentle air of native dignity to open another session of the Imperial Legislature of Great Britain! She is upon a lofty mission, O People! and delay her not; but greet her with your well-wishes, your blessings, and your cheers! May it turn out, moreover, that she be travelling on the high road towards your happiness—that there may be justice and wisdom in the councils which she goes to begin.

It will happen that your rushing millions turn out to get a holiday-gaping at the Royal progress to St. Stephen; the sight is a joyous one, and well equipped in bravery; and they like to know, besides, that the Sovereign takes personal interest in the councils of the nation. On the other hand, the graver politicians and the "country" busy themselves with the Speech. The Speech—the Speech—their kingdom for the Speech! And how it flies on broad wings of paper platitudes—a thousand times faster than even its utterance, from point to point, city to city, and port to port. Business commences with it at once, and now it is adieu to the Queen, and begin with the Government.

We suppose we must find room in our ramblings for a

LAY OF THE SEECHE.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
 To-day

I'm able with a spirit gay
 The country to congratulate
 Upon its most improving state;
 Commerce and trade reviving, and
 Friend John Bull singing "Happy Land."

My Lords, the powers abroad that be,
 Are full of amiability;
 And source of pleasant feeling is it
 When Kings return a Lady's visit;
 So Russian Czar and French Philippe
 Have proved to me their friendship deep.
 Of such pure kindness I'm a lover,
 And much rejoice that they came over!

Gentlemen of the Commons,
 Here,
 I've something for your private ear;
 You can't but hear it with delight,
 The Estimates are ready—quite!

My Lords and Gentlemen,
 I joy
 That Irish peace has less alloy;
 That Bill Bequests and Land Commission
 Foretell it an improved condition!

The theme of Scotch and Irish barley!
 Washing for people of all ranks,
 And then the Income Tax! if true
 That it brings so much revenue,
 Perhaps you'll—while the humour's in you—
 See if it hadn't best continue!

Should you on this deliberate more,
 Still give at least the State galore
 Of money to preclude uneasiness,
 And carry on the nation's business!

And now, not having more commands,
 I leave the matter in your hands,
 Hoping you'll do your very best
 To make my treasured people blest.

We need not follow out the stunning descriptions which the reporters in the House of Lords have given of the brilliant and imposing ceremony of the Opening of the Session by the Sovereign; it is enough to say, that on this occasion it was "lusted in deeper splendour" than ever; and for the incident of the delivery of the Royal Speech, we know how gracious, emphatic, and full of eloquent expression that has ever been—but for the substance, if you have it not reader in those slipshod verses, at all events they are its echo, and when you have satisfied your imagination with the magnificence by which the inaugural ovation was surrounded, you can bethink yourself of its one pleasant intimation about the Income Tax, and set too to calculate what amount you have to pay!

Well, speech in fist, the politicians got to work at once. And now the voting the Address business is over.

In the Commons it was a dull affair enough. There was the Gladstone Explanation—how and why and after what lingering dalliance he left the Cabinet of Peel—then Peel himself feeling, if anything, in a deeper affliction than Mr. Gladstone.

Yes, Gladstone was—alas! ochone!—
 Truly a very precious stone,
 A perfect jewel cleanly set
 Full in my shining cabinet.
 Now gone while I'm lamenting, for he—
 Is Gladstone still? No! very sorry!

The Premier, too, was very affectionately eulogistic in the Charteris panegyric, whereat Duncombe thinks that the Charter is, perhaps, not so far off, after all. He also adds, that Mr. Cardwell's accession to the Treasury is of good omen for Ministers, inasmuch as a Card well placed and played is very nearly sure to win.

Lord John Russell was pretty violent, and here and there smart; and Palmerston, upon the Tahiti question, rated the English Ministry as soundly as ever did Monsieur Thiers—but for precisely a reverse reason! Wonderful are the disparities of politicians!

The Irish members eschew St. Stephen's—with the exception of Bellew, who does not think it eschew, and Wyse, who does not think it prudent—and Sheil, who wants to throw open Trinity College! For all this, there is a good deal promised to the Emerald Isle; and even Conciliation Hall was not proverbially so called from its resistance to all kinds of conciliation—the concessions might be taken in good part. At all events, there is to be lots of education.

Peel is coming out with an early budget, which will be something to think about directly.—Wakley says in the name of the people that if Peel does not take off the taxes he had better take off himself. He is girding his loins, too, for a wrestle with Sir James Graham, about the medical, and Hume is sorry to have so often to ask the House not to stultify itself. Such is the humour of Hume.

In Spain Narvaez has quarrelled with the Queen Mother—and open rupture, violence, and the language of Billingsgate, have been banded between the brutal Minister and the passionate Royalty of Madrid. There will be more blood-spilling there.—America is very busy after Oregon and Texas—"Don't she wish she may get 'em."—Some chivalrous writer in the Times, has been immortalizing the amiability of Otho, in Greece.

There have been some dreadful failures in our emigration system, and the agricultural protection people have had a great spread with a Buckingham and a Richmond in the field—not the Field of the Cloth of Gold—but the field of the cloth of damask on the dining tables of Freemasons' Hall. There was an immense muster—and nothing was said by the orators particularly flattering to the Corn-law League. By the same token the League have never bestowed any very fulsome adulation upon agricultural protection.

The theatres have been sparkling somewhat—the Queen having honoured the Haymarket—the Strand burlesqued Covent Garden—and the Danaiides made their appearance as the dancing husband killers of a ballet at Drury-lane. There has been some stir, also, in the gaols—particularly the inmates of the debtors' prisons have been greatly alarmed by the appearance of the Comet of Arrest, described by Hind as not having been described before.

Au reste (not arrest, this time), there is very little going on. The Session, the Session, is the cry, and something good may yet be got out of it, if party will consent to merge its spirit a little in measures for the national benefit. Our neighbours in France, meanwhile, are setting no very vigorous legislative examples—and the Deputies are rather going towards dissolution than betraying symptoms of industrious vitality. Their onslaughts upon Ministers will pretty certainly end in suicide, which is an uncomfortable alternative, even for a Parliament.

By the way, it is on Valentine's day that the Premier comes out with his scheme of finance. As he has selected the period for the *billing* of the birds, we hope he may weigh his propositions *Coo-ly*, and, like them, exhibit the wisdom of a *Nest-or*.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

RETURN OF THE COURT FROM WINDSOR.—Monday, the Queen and Prince Albert returned to Buckingham Palace from Windsor. In the afternoon her Majesty held a Privy Council, at which the Hon. Sidney Herbert was sworn in, and took his place at the Board. Mr. Gladstone had an audience of the Queen on his resignation of office. On Tuesday, the Queen went in state to the House of Lords, to open the session of Parliament with a speech from the throne. In the evening, her Majesty and Prince Albert honoured the Haymarket Theatre with their presence. Her Majesty held a Privy Council on Wednesday, at which Sir George Clerk was sworn of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took his place at the Board. The Right Honourable Bart. was declared by the Queen in Council to be Vice President of the Board of Trade. The Right Honourable Baronet also kissed hands on being appointed Master of the Mint. The Royal children, with the exception of the Prince of Wales, are at Brighton, and her Majesty and Prince Albert intended to join them there yesterday (Friday).

WINDSOR, Thursday Evening.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the Countess of Wratislaw, and attended by Lady Fanny Howard, left Frogmore House, this morning, in a close carriage and four for town. Her Royal Highness, after visiting her Majesty and the Prince Consort, at Buckingham Palace, and her Royal Highness the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, at Cambridge House, returned to Frogmore this afternoon. Sir George and Lady Cowper, and their youthful family had the honour of dining with the Royal Duchess this evening. Her Royal Highness is not expected to visit Brighton during the sojourn of the Court at the Pavilion, where her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert are expected to arrive to-morrow afternoon, leaving Buckingham Palace immediately after an early luncheon for the New Cross Station, and proceeding thence by a special train to Brighton.

ROYAL VISIT TO WARWICK CASTLE.—We believe we are correct in stating that it is the intention of her Majesty and the Prince Consort to honour the Earl and Countess of Warwick with a visit at Warwick Castle during the ensuing Easter recess.

ANNIVERSARY OF HER MAJESTY'S MARRIAGE.—The sixth anniversary of the marriage of her Majesty, on Monday next, will be celebrated by public dinners at Windsor, Egham, &c.; and a ball in honour of the event will take place at the latter town.

THE EARL OF MORNINGTON.—The answer to the latest inquiries was, that his lordship continued in the same weak state.

Sir Robert Peel entered his fifty-eighth year on Wednesday.

DEATH OF LADY MARY BAGOT.—We regret to announce the demise of Lady Mary Bagot, eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Mornington, and widow of the late Hon. Sir Charles Bagot, the late Governor-General of Canada. The deceased lady was born 5th February, 1786, and married 22nd July, 1806, the Right Hon. Sir Charles Bagot, second son of the late Lord Bagot, by whom her ladyship had ten children, seven of whom are living.

DEATH OF THE DOWAGER COUNTESS OF ALDBOROUGH.—Intelligence has been received from Paris of the death of the Dowager Countess of Aldborough, at her residence in that capital, at an advanced age. The deceased had for the last five years permanently resided at Paris.

DEATH OF MISS KNATCHBULL.—We regret to announce that Sir Edward Knatchbull's daughter, whose illness has of late prevented the right hon. baronet from attending to public business, died on Sunday last, at Merstham Hatch. She was in her 21st year.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATION OF TRACT XC.

OXFORD, Feb. 5.

At an adjourned meeting of the Hebdomadal Board, held yesterday, it was agreed by a majority of 16 to 8, that in the convocation to be held on the 13th inst., at one o'clock, the following form of decree should be submitted to the house:—

"Whereas it is the declared purpose of this University to maintain and inculcate the true faith of the Gospel, and to this end it is enjoined in the statutes of the University, that every student shall be instructed and examined in the Thirty-nine Articles, and shall subscribe to them on various occasions (Tit. II. Sec. 2. Tit. III. Sec. 2. Tit. IV. Sec. II. § 3. 4. Tit. IX. Sec. II. § 3. Sec. V. § 3. Tit. XVII. Sec. III. § 2); and whereas in the 90th Number of the Tracts of the Times, entitled 'Remarks on Certain Passages in the Thirty-nine Articles,' modes of interpretation were suggested, and have since been advocated in other publications purporting to be written by members of the University, by which subscription to the said Articles might be reconciled with the adoption of Roman Catholic errors;—

"It is hereby declared and decreed, that modes of interpretation such as are suggested in the said tract, evading rather than explaining the sense of the Thirty-nine Articles, and reconciling subscription to them with the adoption of errors which they were designed to counteract, defeat the object, and are inconsistent with the due observance of the above-mentioned statutes."

The Rev. Sydney Smith has been exceedingly unwell, but now his recovery is gradually progressing.

We regret to hear that the Bishop of Ely is seriously indisposed.

COUNTRY NEWS.

CORONER FOR BERKSHIRE.—Mr. Rupert Clarke, of Reading, was, on Monday, elected Coroner for Berks, in the room of the late Mr. May.

MURDER AT LEEDS.—At an early hour on Sunday morning last, Elizabeth Nicholls, a woman about 40 years of age, died in consequence of injuries inflicted by her husband, who is now in custody on the charge of having killed her. It seems that the deceased and her husband, who is a journeyman joiner, to whom she had been married for several years, and by whom she had one child, did not live together on the most amicable terms, owing to her temperate habits. On Saturday evening the husband, Joseph Nicholls, went home about half-past eleven o'clock, and not finding his wife in the house, he went out to seek for her. Having found her in a public house the worse for liquor, he commenced abusing her. However, they went home together, but quarrelled on the road, and he kicked her several times, and said he would be the death of her. Nobody interfered between the parties, as it was not supposed that anything serious would occur; but about two o'clock in the morning some of the neighbours called a police officer into Nicholls's house, and when the officer got there the poor woman was lying dead in the house, having, there is little doubt, died from injuries inflicted upon her by her husband, who was slightly in liquor at the time of the fatal occurrence.

FRIGHTFUL COAL-FIT ACCIDENT.—One of those terrific torrents of water which occasionally burst in upon the workmen employed in the coal pits, visited those employed in the mines (Hayes Wood) of William Coxeter James, Esq., near Finsbury, Somersetshire, at an early hour on Tuesday morning. The workmen and boys, to the number of nearly 100, descended the pit at four o'clock in the afternoon: after engaging in their usual vocations for upwards of an hour, an alarm was given by those at the extremity of the pit (a distance of more than a mile from the mouth) that the water was rushing in. The greatest terror now seized every breast. The apparatus for raising the coal (the only means of escape which they possessed) would not hold more than 14, and those who succeeded in reaching the mouth of the pit had to be drawn up in batches, as many as could possibly enter the box, others clinging to the sides and by the ropes. This was required to be done seven or eight times, and by the time the last portion were extricated from their perilous condition the water reached to their shoulders. Ten persons could not be found on Tuesday, and from the position which they occupied in the pit at the time of the accident, being more than a mile from the mouth, no doubt is entertained by those who know the pit, that they have met with a watery grave.

ALLEGED MURDER AT HULL.—A cabinet-maker named Thomas Mattocks, about forty years of age, living in Dagger-lane, Hull, was taken into custody on Wednesday, on suspicion of having murdered his wife, and then set fire to her remains. The poor woman was found by a policeman, about two A.M., in her husband's house, quite dead, with her clothes on fire, and her flesh roasted almost to a cinder. The prisoner made no attempt to extinguish the flames, and when the policeman was going for some water for that purpose, he attempted to make off, but was taken into custody. The prisoner was brought up before the borough magistrates, who remanded him for further examination. An inquest was held on the body, which has been adjourned.

A MOTHER CHARGED WITH BURNING HER CHILD TO DEATH.—A most barbarous and revolting murder is supposed to have been committed at a village called Lammonby, in the vicinity of Penrith, Cumberland, on the afternoon of Wednesday last. A woman named Jane Crosby, whose husband keeps a small inn at Lammonby, has been lately very much addicted to drinking, and the husband frequently reprimanded her for her misconduct. They had two daughters about the ages of nine and ten years, and the younger of these children, who was the father's favourite, frequently informed him that her mother had been intoxicated whilst he was absent. The mother consequently disliked the child, and it would appear that she determined to murder it. The particulars of the horrible crime as stated by the other child are these:—On Wednesday afternoon she undressed the child, and having first hidden the clothes in a closet in the house, made a large fire, and then took the girl by the legs, held her over the fire with her face downwards, and laid her on the top grate bar until the poor child's flesh was literally all burnt off its face, and death terminated its sufferings. She then, it appears, took the child off the fire, and called in at a neighbour's house, and stated that the child had been left in the house along with her little sister, and its clothing having caught fire, it had been burnt to death during her absence at a farm-house about two miles from Lammonby. The story was very much doubted by the neighbours, and, on looking at the remains of the poor child, the shift it had on, when found, had only been partially burnt about the neck and breast, but the back part was whole. As no pieces of the burned clothes had been found about the fireplace, or in the kitchen, their suspicions became excited. The coroner was accordingly informed of the suspicions. On the inquest the circumstances were made known, and the house having been searched, the child's clothes were found wrapped to-

gether, concealed in a closet. On further inquiry, it was found that the accused had perpetrated the horrible crime in the presence of her other child, who was sitting in the kitchen at the time, and had been so frightened that she never mentioned it till questioned by the coroner and jury. The coroner adjourned the inquest until Monday next to give time to obtain some circumstantial evidence necessary to elucidate the case, and in the mean time ordered the woman to be taken into custody.

IRELAND.

VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO IRELAND.—The *Dublin Mercantile Advertiser* states, on "the very best authority," that the Queen and her illustrious consort have determined upon visiting Ireland next summer; and that great political changes are in contemplation for Ireland."

The Earl of Lucan is to succeed the Marquis of Sligo as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Mayo.

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The weekly meeting on Monday presented some matters worth notice. The attendance was by no means numerous. Mr. Neill Daunt having been called to the chair, Mr. O'Connell made a long speech. He said he had to bring before the association a subject of the deepest importance to the country. It was the report of the committee to which the subject of the attendance of the Irish members in Parliament was referred for inquiry. He assured the meeting the report was unanimously adopted. It was in the form of resolutions, which were as follow:—"That however desirable it may be that a discussion should take place in the House of Commons, with a view to expose the injustice of the proceedings connected with the late state trials, this association is so deeply impressed with a sense of the hopelessness of obtaining redress for the wrongs of Ireland from the Imperial Parliament that we cannot recommend that the Irish members should be called upon to attend such discussion. That the attendance of the Irish Repeal members in the Conciliation Hall would be most conducive to the great object of the association, the restoration of our domestic legislature." This report, he continued, would be submitted to the association for adoption by Mr. O'Brien, a man to whom Ireland owed more than any other living. (This sentiment excited loud cheers, which were prolonged by the women in the Associates' gallery.) After some further compliments to Mr. O'Brien, Mr. O'Connell said, his first question was, "What good would they get for Ireland by going to England? (A Voice: 'Nothing.') Yes, we shall get exactly that. He was convinced of it. England was listening to them to-day. Scotland was listening to them to-day. The civilised European world was listening to them; and what they were saying to-day would be heard with a shout of applause in the many republics of America. (Cheers.) The question was, could England do anything for us? The question was, would England do anything for us? What chance was there that the present Government or Parliament would redress their grievances? Not the least. The English papers had said, 'O'Connell declares the English will do no good for Ireland;' and they added, 'Why does he not come and try?' 'I'll,' exclaimed he, "go no more." (Great cheers.)—The resolutions were agreed to.—The rent for the week amounted to £387 3s. 7d.

ANOTHER BARBAROUS MURDER IN IRELAND.—There has been another ferocious murder in Ireland, the details of which are furnished in these terms by the *Leitrim Gazette*. "Never (says that paper) have we had to record the circumstances of a deed of blood more horrifying than that which we are now about to place before our readers. A more desperate and cold-blooded piece of butchery has not stained deeper the annals of crime in the county of Leitrim since the murder of the lamented Mr. West. The victim in the present instance was Mr. M'Leod, resident magistrate, a most esteemed and highly respected magistrate, who had been ordered from Enniskillen to Ballinamore, in consequence of the numerous outrages committed in the neighbourhood of the latter place, and in the hope that his usual energy and firmness would aid considerably in the measures adopted for the suppression of crime. On Wednesday week Mr. M'Leod dined at the residence of Mr. Percy, of Garradise, near Ballinamore, where he remained until ten o'clock that night, when he ordered out his jaunting-car, for the purpose of returning to Ballinamore. He had reached the porter's lodge at the end of the avenue, when his servant got off the car for the purpose of opening the gate, and while in the act of doing so a shot was fired immediately behind him, and then followed a rustling in the shrubbery, at the side of the avenue, as that of some person retiring from the place. The gatekeeper, who had been in bed, then rushed out, and on going up to the car found the unfortunate gentleman sitting in a reclining position and quite insensible; he then accompanied the servant back to Mr. Percy's, and when arrived there it was ascertained that he was quite dead, a musket ball having entered his left side, passed through the heart and lodged in his back, so that death must have been instantaneous. Several persons have been arrested, but nothing has transpired to insure a conviction. Mr. M'Leod held the rank of Captain in the 27th Regiment, and for his signal services during the late war was noticed by the Government, and appointed an officer of police." A reward of £100 has been offered by the Government for the discovery of the perpetrators of the murder. The following more immediate cause for this assassination has been given by another paper:—"Captain M'Leod attended the petty sessions on Wednesday. Some tenants of Mr. Percy, of Garradise, near Ballinamore, a magistrate, were charged with ribbonism. The other magistrates on the bench were disposed to allow the accused to give bail, but Captain M'Leod opposed this course, and bail was refused."

MYSTERIOUS AND FATAL OCCURRENCE AT DONNYBROOK.—On Sunday last, the policeman on duty in the neighbourhood of Donnybrook discovered that one of the houses on Flora-villa-row, a retired spot on the bank of the river Dadd, and within a short distance of the fair green of the village, had been burned down on the previous night. The cottage was rented by an English gentleman, named Orson, who had been for many years in the East India Company's service; the other inmates consisting of his wife, two children (aged respectively one and three years), and a female attendant. On breaking open the hall-door the house was found to have been reduced to a mere shell, the inside of which was half-filled with a heap of smouldering rubbish, the roof and floors having fallen in. A written paper was found nailed to the back of the door, and uninjured by the fire, containing a statement to the effect that the place would remain a monument of the cruelty of the landlord. The police forthwith informed that gentleman of the occurrence, and ascertained from him that Captain Orson was considerably in arrears for rent, and for some time past had been holding adverse possession of the premises, the usual legal process having been resorted to for the purpose of dislodging him. Workmen were employed to clear away the rubbish, and beneath it were discovered burned to cinders the remains of four persons, supposed to be those of Orson, his wife, and two children. Various rumours were current upon the subject. On the one hand it was said that the unfortunate occupant had committed the treble crime of arson, murder, and suicide; whilst others believed that the occurrence was accidental. [We have since received an account of the inquest. The evidence did not at all confirm the supposition that Captain Orson had set the house on fire, and the jury therefore returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was burned to death by reason of his house having accidentally taken fire. It was not considered necessary to hold an inquest on the remains of the wife and children.]

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

THE MURDER AT BETHNAL-GREEN.—On Monday morning the inquiry touching the death of Emma Whiter was resumed at the London Hospital, before Mr. Baker, the coroner for the eastern division of Middlesex.—Henry Surrinch, a retired licensed victualler, deposed that on the 25th of January last he was at the bar of the Rising Sun public-house, at a quarter to one in the day. He saw James Tapping, with a pistol in his hand. Witness's notice was drawn to the pistol by the report of a percussion cap which Tapping snapped on the lock. The pistol resembled the one produced. Witness was at the Rising Sun between twelve and one o'clock, on the Tuesday morning last. He saw Tapping walk hastily out of the tap-room and call for some brandy at the bar, which he drank, and then re-entered the tap-room. His sister came in immediately after and fainted on the floor. Witness could not say what was the cause of it. Tapping soon after left the house in company with several persons. Shortly after he had left witness went also, and proceeded towards his own house. On approaching the Salmon and Ball public-house he met Tapping in company with Richard Bunn. They appeared to be going towards the prisoner's (Tapping's) house. They did not make any observation to witness. They were coming from the Salmon and Ball.—A witness, named Thomas Capes, deposed to some quarrelling between the prisoner and the deceased on a former occasion.—William Whiter, a brother of the deceased, keeps a beer-shop in Brick-lane. On Monday night last, at a quarter to ten, deceased came into his parlour, and Tapping shortly after went into the tap-room. They had no communication while in his house. At twelve o'clock they both walked out together, and shook hands with witness before leaving. William Cumming stated, that he was the house-surgeon of the London Hospital, and was called to see the deceased at five minutes past one on the morning of Tuesday last. She was quite dead, and had apparently been so for about an hour. The body was still warm. The witness handed in a written statement, from which it appeared that on examining the body he found no marks or bruises as if a struggle had taken place. There was a quantity of blood on her dress, and a black spot, four inches in diameter, on the left side of the neck, which appeared to have been burnt, and smelt strongly of gunpowder. There was a hole in the centre about the size of a small marble. He made a post mortem examination about 37 hours after the deceased was brought into the hospital. The result of that examination was that he found the wound in the neck commenced about an inch and a half under the left side of the jaw and took a direction upwards and backwards. There were two balls in the wound, one of which had shattered one of the vertebrae, and the second had lodged in the lower part of another. A large wound was made on the external carotid artery by the passage of the balls, and many small vessels were divided. Either the injury to the spine, or that to the carotid artery was sufficient to cause death in a few minutes. The Coroner having summed up, the Jury deliberated for about a quarter of an hour and then returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder against James

Tapping." On Tuesday, James Tapping was finally examined before the magistrates at the Worship-street police office, and, after a good deal of the evidence given at the coroner's inquest had been recapitulated and some little additional evidence given, he was fully committed for trial. In the course of the examination, a sister of his was present, and added to the excitement by going off into a violent hysterical fit. She gave her brother an excellent character, said he had been the sole support of two orphan sisters, and that she did not know what the family would do now that it was bereaved of him.

THE MURDER AND SUICIDE AT SHOREDITCH.—On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. Baker, at the Blue Last, Curtain-road, Shoreditch, on the body of Joseph Barry and his wife, Mary Priscilla Barry, who were found dead in their beds on the previous morning, at their residence, 4, Luke-street, St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, as stated in our paper last week. The evidence given did not throw any light upon the motives for the commission of the double crime. Barry was believed to be in good circumstances, but he had been a good deal worried by a particular and difficult kind of work he had had to do. He had for some days complained of violent pains in his head. The surgeon examined stated his opinion to be the same as the policeman stated in his evidence, as to Mr. Barry having cut the throat of his wife while he was out of bed, and then gone into bed and cut his own. The jury returned a verdict to the effect "That the deceased, Joseph Barry, cut his wife's throat, being in an unsound state of mind at the time, and afterwards committed suicide by cutting his own throat."

THE EXPLOSION ON THE MANCHESTER AND LEEDS RAILWAY.—A long inquiry into the cause of this explosion has taken place before the coroner. The evidence went to prove beyond a doubt that the explosion took place on account of undue pressure of steam. Mr. Bury, the engine-builder, stated that the appearance of the boiler showed that there was a sufficiency of water in it at the time of the explosion; for some of the tubes were injured. As the boiler had been worked for four years, at a pressure of 60 lbs. to the square inch, that showed it was capable of bearing such a pressure. It was not at all improbable that the engineer, if he found that he was short of steam, might have screwed the valve tighter, so as to prevent the steam blowing off. If the valves had been free, the explosion could not have taken place. In the course of the inquiry it was suggested that as it was usual for the engineman to open the valves at night to let off the steam, he might have screwed them down too tight in the morning when he came to his labour. One of the jury said that this was the best explanation which he had heard of the cause of the accident. The jury ultimately returned the following verdict:—"That from the evidence brought before us we have reason to suppose that the ordinary valve had been closed to facilitate the pressure of the steam, and that from some unknown cause the lock-up valve was impeded in its working. That it is the opinion of the jury that there was a flaw in the copper-plate in the upper part of the fire-box, arising from the contraction and expansion of the metal in its ordinary working, which led, under accumulated pressure, to the catastrophe, by which Wm. Stones, George Mills, and Wm. Alcock met their deaths. From these circumstances the jury lay a dead-on on the engine of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS." It is stated that the proceedings will be brought under the notice of the Court of Queen's Bench.

POSTSCRIPT.

ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAIL.

INDIA.

We have received letters and papers from Bombay to the 1st Jan., and from China to the 19th Nov., brought by the Overland Mail. Subjoined is a summary of the most interesting events since the last arrival. The campaign in the Southern Mahratta country is supposed to be nearly over—five forts, two of them of very great strength, have been captured since the 1st of December. Some 7000 troops continue quartered in the country: Colonel Ovens, who had been appointed to succeed Col. Outram as political agent, and had been a captive in the hands of the enemy, returned to his friends in safety. Colonel Hickey, of the 2d Grenadiers, was killed by a cannon shot on November 29, while directing operations against the fort of Punalla, afterwards breached and taken by storm on the 2nd December. The troubles of the Sawut Warree country still continue, and nearly 3000 troops are employed in keeping the insurgents from devastating the country. In Scinde everything keeps quiet, and though disease is decreasing, there are still nearly 3000 in hospital. Her Majesty's 78th has lost in all about 200 men, women, and children, within these three months, and there are scarcely a dozen men in the regiment who have not been in hospital. Sir C. Napier was by last accounts at Larkhana, proposing to make a sweep across the country as far as Dadur, at the foot of the Bolan Pass, his chief object being the total destruction of the town of Poolajee. The place is believed already to have fallen into the hands of Nusser Khan of Kelat, who holds it till we arrive or give the order for its destruction.—The result of Col. Moseley's trial has been published, together with that officer's defence of his conduct. He has been sentenced to be cashiered from the service. The troubles of the Punjab are for the present hushed. The only intelligence of importance received during the past month from Afghanistan refers to a fearful pestilence said to be raging in Cabul. Throughout India generally peace prevails. The Governor General is strenuously promoting the cause of native education and general enlightenment, and working out plain common sense practical improvements in all directions.

CHINA.

We have news of the 19th November, from China. The new Governor seems to be getting himself very needlessly into trouble. Some of his recent ordinances have been remonstrated against, and seem in the last degree inexpedient. The news of the death of the Emperor is not confirmed. The Chinese people are generally tranquil, trade continuing dull. The cold season in Western India continues healthy and agreeable, though there are some fears of drought, the fall of the two past rainy seasons having been defective.

The treaty of Commerce which was negotiated between France and China, was signed on the 24th of October at Whampoa, on board the *Archimedes*.

NEW PROJECTED RAILWAYS.

(From the *London Gazette*, of last night.)

Railway Department, Board of Trade, Whitehall, Feb. 7.

Notice is hereby given, that the Board constituted by the Minute of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, for the transaction of railway business, having had under consideration the following schemes, for extending railway communication in South Wales and Herefordshire, viz.:—The South Wales; the Monmouth and Hereford (Great Western); the Newport and Pontypool; the Gloucester and Dean Forest; have decided on reporting to Parliament in favour of the South Wales Railway; Monmouth and Hereford (Great Western); Newport and Pontypool; and against the Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway; and the Board having further had under consideration the following schemes, for extending railway communication to Shrewsbury, viz.:—The Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, Dudley, and Birmingham Railway; the Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton (Grand Junction); the Shrewsbury and Stafford; have decided on reporting to Parliament in favour of the Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, Dudley, and Birmingham; and against the Shrewsbury and Stafford; and the Board having further had under consideration the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway scheme, have decided on reporting to Parliament in favour of the said scheme.

DALHOUSIE.

C. W. PASLEY.

D. O. BRIEN.

G. R. PORTER.

S. LAING.

DEPARTURE OF THE COURT FOR BRIGHTON.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, and attended by the Court, left town for the Pavilion at Brighton, at three o'clock yesterday afternoon. The royal party travelled by the Brighton Railway, a special train having been ordered.

The Marquis of Lansdowne left town yesterday morning for Bowood. The marriage of Lady Louisa Fitzmaurice and the Hon. James Kenneth Howard is definitively arranged to take place on Monday next.

SOUTH WILTSHIRE ELECTION.—It is supposed that the Hon. Sidney Herbert will be re-elected without opposition.

STAMFORD ELECTION.—The election for Stamford is to take place on Monday next. No new candidate is announced, and, we believe, Sir George Clerk will be re-elected without opposition.

IMPROVEMENTS IN WESTMINSTER.—Yesterday a numerous meeting of the inhabitants of Westminster was held in the Mechanics' Institution, Smith-street, for the purpose of considering the best means of improving those parts of Westminster contiguous to the Palace, the Abbey, Houses of Parliament, &c. Captain Ross, M.P., presided. It appears that the principal feature of the proposed improvements is the construction of a road leading from the Abbey to Piccadilly, and forming a connection thereby with Grosvenor-place, Belgrave-square, &c. According to Mr. R. Watson's plan the new road is proposed to commence in the Broad Sanctuary, next to the Abbey, and according to another at Tothill-street. A very lengthy discussion on the respective merits of both plans ensued. Resolutions were ultimately agreed to, recommending the improvement in the district, but requesting the Government to withhold preference to any plans submitted, until their merits were tested by a committee of the inhabitants of the parishes.

HEREFORD GRAND ANNUAL STEEPLE CHASE, Thursday.—Handicap of 25 sovs. each, with 100 added. Mr. W. Jenkins' Lycyrcus beat Mr. T. Oliver's Vanguard, and 12 others.

LOSS OF FOUR LIVES ON THE RIVER.—On Thursday, a sailing boat, the property of Mr. Byford, of Barking, was upset in a squall between Woolwich and the latter town. It had a cargo of fish, and the owner of them, as well as three sons of Mr. Byford, sunk with the vessel and were drowned. A man named Leach, a waterman of London, who was on the fore part of the vessel, had the presence of mind to throw off his jacket, and kept swimming about for the space of 20 minutes, when he was rescued by a sailing-vessel. The name of the owner of the fish is at present unknown.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

On Tuesday Parliament was opened by her Majesty in State. Apart from the intrinsic and vast importance of this royal ceremony, the great constitutional features of the pageant possess the most impressive interest. The sceptre, even in woman's gentle hand, is a potent engine. Next on the proud parade are the peers, the peerage of England. Of them we shall borrow the language of the Swedish Ambassador, Count Björnstjerna, "Every page of the history of the world shows that those states which are destitute of the aristocratic element (understood in its nobler sense, namely, as open to every kind of merit, and not exclusive, like the Roman or Venetian Patriarchate) have soon degenerated either to the despotism of an individual, or to the still more dangerous despotism of polyarchy." What a commentary on this fine passage were the men who stood around the Queen on her throne last Tuesday. An aristocracy "open to every kind of merit!" There were Wellington and Lyndhurst, Denman, Pollock, Charles Grant, Canning (of illustrious name), and a hundred others, raised from the ranks of the people to be the props of the State, the glories and the safeguards of the land.

And last of the three estates—the mingled democracy of England—wielding a command which, even for good and common weal, requires the regulated prerogative of the Crown, and the prescribed check of the peers, to adjust the balance, and keep it in right order.

It was a superlative sight to see these political elements mingled together as they are on such an event, but not less gratifying to witness the "turn out" of an active and intelligent population; to gaze, to comment on, to blame, or to admire everything presented to their view.

Leaving these desultory observations, let us come to the real business of Tuesday. The fact of the Prince of Wales remaining in town, while his Royal sisters had been sent to Brighton, caused a greatly increased excitement on Monday; as there were many, even amongst those who should have known better, who anticipated that it was her Majesty's intention to take her Royal son with her to open the Parliament. This report, circulated by the daily papers, tended materially to increase the attendance at the House of Lords, as well as making a large difference in the multitudes who assembled along the line of the procession.

The doors of the Parliament were opened to a crowd of persons who had obtained tickets of admission at twelve o'clock, and from that time till nearly two, the influx of visitors was unceasing. The house presented a gay and animated appearance from the picturesque mingling of the various costumes worn by the peers, peeresses, bishops, judges, ambassadors, foreigners, ladies, &c.

About half-past one o'clock, the procession at Buckingham Palace be-

gan to form, and shortly after, he Majesty and Prince Albert descended the Grand Staircase, and were conducted to the State Carriage by the Earl Delawarr, the Lord Chamberlain of the Household, whose official duties have a temporary cessation, as soon as her Majesty is seated—the department over which his lordship presides not being acknowledged in her Majesty's Palace at Westminster. The Queen was dressed in white satin, and wore her splendid diamond circlet, her state robe being borne by the Pages of Honour. Prince Albert was habited as a Field Marshal, and wore the Collars of the Garter and Golden Fleece. Her Majesty and Prince Albert were accompanied in the State Carriage by the Countess of Gainsborough, Lady in Waiting; and the Earl of Jersey, Master of the Horse. As the procession started, the Guard of Honour, the Grenadiers, commanded by Colonel Wood, and the band of the regiment on duty on the Palace lawn, received her Majesty and her illustrious Consort with the usual military honours.

The order of the procession was as follows:—
A carriage drawn by six bays, conveying Sir Noel Harris, Mr. Des Voeux, and another Gentleman Usher, the Exon in Waiting, and Mr. Wilson, Page of Honour.

A carriage drawn by six bays, conveying Captain F. Hugh Seymour, Groom of the Robes; Colonel Reid, Silver Stick; Captain the Hon. Arthur Duncombe, R.N., Groom in Waiting; Sir George Anson, G.C.B., Groom in Waiting to the Prince; and Mr. Wortley, Page of Honour.

A carriage drawn by six bays, conveying the Comptroller of the Household, the Clerk Marshal, Colonel Buckley, Equerry in Waiting, and Colonel Wylde, Equerry in Waiting to the Prince.

A carriage, drawn by six bays, conveying the Captain of the Yeomen, the Marquis of Ormonde, Lord in Waiting, the Treasurer of the Household, and Lord George Lennox, Lord in Waiting to the Prince.

A carriage, drawn by six black horses, conveying the Viscountess Canning, Lady in Waiting, the Lord Steward, the Marquis of Londonderry, G.C.B., Gold Stick, and the Groom of the Stole to Prince Albert.

A detachment of the Life Guards.
The Queen's Marshals and Footmen in State Liveries, and a detachment of the Yeomen Guard.

The State Coach, drawn by eight cream-coloured horses.

At a quarter past two o'clock, the report of cannon announced the approach of her Majesty, and the great officers of State left the house to assume their badges of office, and to prepare to take their assigned places in the royal *entrée*, where, by direction of the Earl Marshal, through the Garter King of Arms, the Great Officers of State and others assembled at the foot of the staircase, in order to receive her



CEREMONY OF ROBING HER MAJESTY IN THE LIBRARY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.



THE LORD CHANCELLOR PRESENTING HER MAJESTY WITH THE COPY OF THE SPEECH.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.



THE AMBASSADORS' AND CHURCH BENCHES, HOUSE OF LORDS.

Majesty at the portico of the House of Lords upon alighting from the State Carriage, when the procession moved up the staircase through the Royal Gallery, in the following order:—

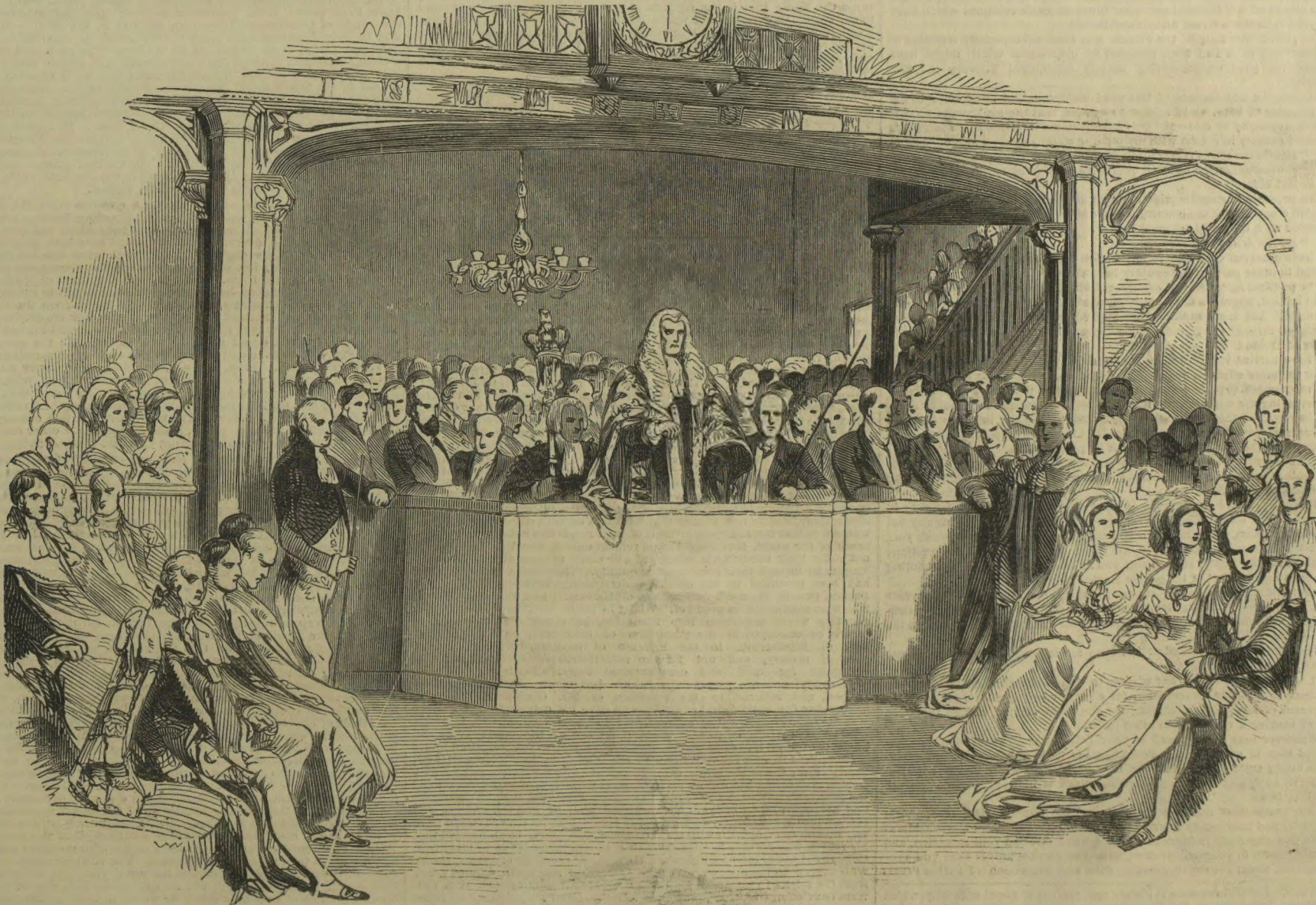
Equerry to H.R.H. Prince Albert.	Pursuivants.	Groom to H.R.H. Prince Albert.
Equerry to her Majesty.	Heralds.	Groom in Waiting to her Majesty.
The Comptroller of her Majesty's Household.	Clerk Marshal.	The Treasurer of her Majesty's Household.

Serjeant-at-Arms.	Norroy King-of-Arms.	The Lord Privy Seal.	Clarenceux King-of-Arms.	Serjeant-at-Arms.
	The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.	The Lord President of the Council.	The Lord High Chancellor.	
	The Earl Marshal.	The Sword of State.	Garter Principal King-of-Arms.	
			The Lord Great Chamberlain.	

THE QUEEN'S MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY,
Accompanied by his Royal Highness the PRINCE ALBERT
And attended by the Mistress of the Robes,
And the Lady in Waiting.

The Lord Steward.	Groom of the Stole to H.R.H. the Prince Albert.
	The Lord in Waiting.
	The Page of Honour.
	The Master of the Horse.
	Lord in Waiting to H.R.H. the Prince Albert.
	Field Officers of the Guard on Duty.
	Gentlemen-at-Arms.

and proceeded to the library of the House of Lords, which, together with the librarian's room, had been elegantly fitted up as a robing and private withdrawing room for her Majesty. In the former of these noble apartments



THE HOUSE OF COMMONS BEFORE HER MAJESTY, AT THE BAR OF THE PEERS.

the ceremony of investing the Queen with the imperial mantle took place. Previously to her Majesty's arrival, the crown and state regalia, which had been brought from the Tower by Sir William Martens, the Deputy Chamberlain, were placed on a table in the centre of the room, and had a most imposing appearance. In front of this table her Majesty, standing beneath a lofty crimson canopy, and surrounded by her great Ministers of State, was pleased to signify that the houses should forthwith be assembled, and to express her readiness to meet them in Parliament. Being then robed in the mantle of supreme authority, her Majesty, preceded by the Duke of Beaufort, bearing the Crown on a rich cushion; the Marquis of Winchester, carrying the Cap of Maintenance; the Duke of Wellington, the Sword of State; and the great servants of the Household, their huge maces of stately office; advanced through the second corridor to the House of Peers. Her Majesty's passage was guarded by a double row of House Guards in court costume; and the rear of her stately retinue was closed by two strong parties of beef-eaters, and men at arms, who, during the Queen's stay in the robing-room, had guarded that apartment. The procession, in passing this corridor, had a highly picturesque effect—Mr. Soane's ornamental groupings and coloured skylights being seen to great advantage in connection with such gorgeous elements.

A flourish of trumpets announced the Royal approach, and her Majesty entered, with Prince Albert, and took her seat on the throne, the Prince being seated on her left, the chair on her right, destined for the Prince of Wales remaining vacant.

The Queen being seated on the throne the Lord President stood on the steps of the throne, on the right, and the Lord Privy Seal on the left of her Majesty, the Lord Chancellor behind the Prince of Wales's chair. The Earl Marshal and the Lord bearing the Cap of Maintenance, stood on the right hand of her Majesty; the Lord Great Chamberlain—whose duties were undertaken by Sir Augustus Clifford, in consequence, we regret to say, of extreme indisposition rendering it impossible for Lord Willoughby de Eresby to come to town to be present at the ceremony—took his place on the steps of the throne towards the left hand of her Majesty, to receive the Royal commands; and the Duke of Wellington bearing the Sword of State stood on the left hand of her Majesty.

The Groom of the Stole and the Lord in Waiting to Prince Albert stood near the chair of his Royal Highness, and the other officers of her Majesty's household and of the household of Prince Albert arranged themselves on each side of the steps of the throne, in the rear of the Great Officers of State.

After her Majesty had ascended the throne, and ordered the Peers, who received her standing, to be seated, the Commons were summoned to attend at the bar and hear the Royal Speech.

Within a few minutes they appeared. The picture of the House at this moment was singularly interesting, and such as no other kingdom could present. In front of her Majesty sat the Judges of the land, dressed in their scarlet robes, and huge fur tippets decorated with the massive gold chains of judicial office. On the right of the House, and near the throne, stood the *corps diplomatique*, the assembled representatives of nearly every civilized state on earth, forming a gorgeously-attired company, in which the Austrian, by his heraldic bearing, hussar-like uniform, and stiff white feather—the Turk, by his fez, small stature, neat and delicate features—the Frenchman, by his smart attire and gay address—the South American, by his light blue draperies, bushy moustachios, and endless decorations—as well as others, by similarly striking national characteristics, might be readily distinguished. In front of them sat the Bishops, dressed in their scarlet robes, as temporal peers, and their hoods of white fur, to denote their ecclesiastical character. On the left, disposed in a compact mass, sat the ladies of the Ambassadors, a perfect galaxy of national beauty, the country of each of the fair visitants being distinctly traceable in their several physiognomies. Beyond these, arranged on the two sides of the house, appeared a multitudinous mass of peeresses, presenting a perfect sea of plumes, glittering with brilliants, varied only in its beauteous aspect by the occasional figure of a solitary peer. Still further in the distance appeared the doughty Commons of England, headed by their Speaker, robed in his massive gown of silk and golden work, and half smothered in his enormous wig; and above all these, in the gallery, an admiring host of the commonalty, proud of their constitutional representatives, and waiting in breathless anxiety for the first accents of her Majesty's voice.

The Lord Chancellor having presented the Royal Speech to the Queen, with the formality pictured in the engraving, her Majesty read it throughout with the most perfect intonation and distinctness. It was as follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"I rejoice that I am enabled, on again meeting you in Parliament, to congratulate you on the improved condition of the country.

"Increased activity pervades almost every branch of manufacture. Trade and commerce have been extended at home and abroad, and among all classes of my people there is generally prevalent a spirit of loyalty and cheerful obedience to the law.

"I continue to receive from all Foreign Powers and States assurances of their friendly disposition.

"I have had much satisfaction in receiving at my Court the Sovereigns who, in the course of the last year, visited this country.

"The journey of the Emperor of Russia, undertaken at a great sacrifice of private convenience, was a proof of the friendship of his Imperial Majesty most acceptable to my feelings.

"The opportunity of personal intercourse thus afforded to me may, I hope, be the means of still further improving those amicable relations which have long existed between Great Britain and Russia.

"The visit of the King of the French was rendered especially welcome to me, inasmuch as it had been preceded by discussions which might have impaired the good understanding happily established between the two countries.

"I regard the maintenance of this good understanding as essential to the best interests of both, and I rejoice to witness that the sentiments so cordially expressed by all classes of my subjects on the occasion of his Majesty's visit were entirely in unison with my own.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"The estimates for the ensuing year have been prepared, and will forthwith be laid before you.

"The progress of steam-navigation and the demands for protection to the extended commerce of the country will occasion an increase in the estimates connected with the naval service.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"I have observed with sincere satisfaction that the improvement which is manifest in other parts of the country has extended to Ireland.

"The political agitation and excitement which I have had heretofore occasion to lament, appear to have gradually abated, and as a natural result, private capital has been more freely applied to useful public enterprises undertaken through the friendly co-operation of individuals interested in the welfare of Ireland.

"I have carried into effect, in the spirit in which it was conceived, the Act for the more effectual application of Charitable Donations and Bequests.

"I recommend to your favourable consideration the policy of improving and extending the opportunities for academical education in Ireland.

"The report of the commission appointed to inquire into the law and practice in respect to the occupation of land is nearly prepared, and shall be communicated to you immediately after its presentation.

"The state of the law in regard to the privileges of the Bank of Ireland, and to other banking establishments in that country and in Scotland, will no doubt occupy your attention.

"The health of the inhabitants of large towns and populous districts in this part of the United Kingdom has been the subject of recent inquiry before a commission, the report of which shall be immediately laid before you.

"It will be highly gratifying to me if the information and suggestions contained in that Report shall enable you to devise the means of promoting the health and comfort of the poorer classes of my subjects.

"I congratulate you on the success of the measures, which, three years since, were adopted by Parliament for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the public revenue, and arresting the accumulation of debt in the time of peace.

"The act which was passed at that time for imposing a tax upon income will shortly expire.

"It will be for you in your wisdom to determine whether it may not be expedient to continue its operation for a further period, and thus to obtain the means of adequately providing for the public service, and at the same time of making a reduction in other taxation.

"Whatever may be the result of your deliberations in this respect, I feel assured that it will be your determination to maintain an amount of revenue amply sufficient to meet the necessary expenditure of the country, and firmly to uphold that public credit, which is indispensable to the national welfare.

"The prospect of continued peace, and the general state of domestic prosperity and tranquillity afford a favourable opportunity for the consideration of the important matters to which I have directed your attention, and I commit them to your deliberation, with the earnest prayer that you may be enabled, under the superintending care and protection of Divine Provi-

* The Cap of Maintenance is a state cap, typical of Royal authority, which is always borne before the Sovereign on solemn occasions. It was first used by Henry VIII., who received it from Pope Julius II., as a present for writing against Luther. The Cap now in use is of crimson velvet, with a deep band of ermine, and a tassel of gold.

dence, to strengthen the feelings of mutual confidence and good-will between different classes of my subjects, and to improve the condition of my people."

After the delivery of her Most Gracious Majesty's Speech, the Queen and Prince Albert retired from the chamber in the same order as they had entered. As they passed through the streets and park, on their way back to Buckingham Palace, they were saluted with the same loyal greeting as they had previously received.

The state procession returned in the same order to the Palace at five minutes past three o'clock, the Lord Chamberlain and the Vice Chamberlain receiving her Majesty and the Prince at the grand entrance. Our engraving on the front page represents the scene of her Majesty's Departure. The gateway forms the grand entrance to the house, built by Mr. Soane, for George IV.

Thus closed a pageant, in which we have omitted no important circumstance, except, perhaps, that previously to the opening of the house, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the old ceremony of searching the vaults for delinquents of the Guy Fawkes order took place, but with no graver issue than the discovery that lanterns, which were used for the first time, are less choking than the old smoky, but picturesque flambeaux, which were formerly employed.

Our illustrations are authentic embodiments of the great events we have attempted to describe; for, thanks to the courtesy of the Lord Great Chamberlain, we were enabled to make drawings on the spot, and are thus in a position to give a picturesque and literary history of the opening of the present Session of Parliament by her Majesty Queen Victoria.

It may interest country readers to know, that the House of Lords and its offices are open to the public on every Wednesday and Friday.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

After the delivery of the Queen's Speech, the house adjourned and met again at half-past four o'clock.

The Earl of Ellenborough was introduced by Earl Amherst and Earl Powis, and took his seat on the earls' bench. The noble earl also subscribed the roll of Peers.

THE ADDRESS.—The Queen's Speech having been read by the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis CAMDEN moved the usual Address, in answer to it. The noble marquis reiterated most of the topics to which the speech referred.—Lord GLENLYON seconded the Address. The noble lord, who was attired in full Highland costume, read his speech, and seemed sometimes embarrassed to make out the writing. Like the noble mover, Lord Glenlyon only touched upon the points noticed in her Majesty's speech.—The Marquis of NORMANBY alluded to the state of Ireland, and protested against that part of the speech of his noble friend who seconded the address, in which he construed the universal respect and loyalty which her Majesty so well deserved, and which she so generally received, as a proof of an increased and increasing respect for her Majesty's Ministers. He should have thought that his noble friend would have known that there was a clan like devotion and loyalty which was independent of any consideration of Ministerial measures. The noble marquis then expressed a hope that some measures would be introduced for Ireland to which he could give his consent. He admitted that there was less agitation in Ireland, but still fearful crimes were committed.

—The Duke of RICHMOND complained that nothing was said in the speech about agriculture, although the agriculturists were in a state of great distress. If the Income-tax should be re-enacted, he trusted that it would be in an amended form as regarded the agriculturists. At present the farmer was called upon to pay it on the value of his land, although no tradesman was obliged to pay it except on his profits. That should be altered in justice to the industrious body which it affected. He hoped that due attention would be given by her Majesty's Government to the agricultural distress of the country.

—Lord WHARNCLIFFE explained that the reason why agriculture was left out of the Royal speech was because it was not in a flourishing condition.—Lord BROUGHAM expressed his congratulations at the flourishing state of the finances, and proceeded to say that the late visit of the King of the French had produced a most salutary effect, both here and in France. It promoted and increased an improved feeling in the French people towards this country; and those difficulties which had been happily overcome, as well as those which remained to be overcome, had been overcome by that means, without a sacrifice of interest or honour—without concession, or the shadow of concession, on the one part or on the other. (Hear.) Neither was there any alliance between this country and France, or any yielding of France to England or England to France, in the matter; but, upon perfectly equal terms—terms of perfect, absolute, and unbroken equality—without alliance and without ill-will, with a perfect friendship, but without sacrifice, and without a shadow of concession being asked by the one side or given by the other, by reason chiefly of that reception were those difficulties concluded.

—After brief speeches from the Earl of HARDWICKE and the Earl of MALMESBURY, the Marquis of LANSDOWNE referred to the decision of the House of Lords in the O'Connell case, and expressed his opinion that the improved state of things in Ireland was to be attributed to the care and diligence and respect which their lordships had shown for the feelings, and interests, and constitutional rights of that people. The Marquis of Lansdowne adverted to the difficulties which had arisen with France, and said that it was from the want of due explanation in the first instance, that questions, small and insignificant in themselves, gradually magnified themselves in importance, till they threatened permanently to involve the interests of all Europe.—The Earl of ABERDEEN assured the house that in the representations which it was his duty to make to the French Government, he would have been ashamed to ask any thing which he would not, in a similar situation, have been fully prepared to grant. On this principle they had acted, and in proof of this system of explanation, and of good understanding between the two countries, the present happy result of the discussion bore ample witness. (Hear, hear.)

Some conversation took place between the Lord Chancellor, Lord Campbell, and Lord Brougham, on the subject of the bill for abolition of arrest passed last Session, and upon other legal measures. Lord Brougham took the opportunity of saying that the £20 clause, about which there had been such an outcry against him, was added in committee and was not introduced by him. But most blessed effects had proceeded from the clause, as appeared, for instance, in Captain Williams's report on prisons. This report was a splendid panegyric on the law; it showed that it had not only worked admirably in cleansing the goals of unfortunate debtors, but that in no instance had it diminished credit, where credit ought to be given, in whole-some course of business.

The Address was then agreed to unanimously, and a committee appointed to carry it up to her Majesty. The house adjourned at eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The House met for business at four o'clock.

THE ADDRESS.—Mr. CHARTERIS moved the address in answer to her Majesty's speech. The seconder was Mr. T. BARING. The speeches of both the members referred to exclusively to the points of her Majesty's speech, that it is not necessary to follow them.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL concurred in the congratulations of the speech in some points, but did not think Ministers had any right to take credit for their negotiations with France. The noble lord adverted to all the circumstances connected with the arrest of Mr. Pritchard, and referring to the correspondence between M. de Jarnac, Mr. Guizot, and the Earl of Aberdeen, said, it appeared to him, that in the first place, this Government was disposed to make demands on which it did not afterwards insist, and that on the other hand, the French Government refused at first to enter at all into the discussion. That, because of the excitement, because, in fact, there were reasons for repression, therefore they need not enter at all into the discussion. He confessed he could not see the moderation of this Government. He believed that the two Governments of France and England were both too much influenced by the pressure from without, and that the understanding between them was not cordial and complete. The cloud which menaced the duration of peace had, however, blown away, and he now trusted that Ministers on both sides of the channel would feel that it was for the interest of their respective nations and for the peace of the world, that they should remain united, and that they should not suffer their subordinate officers at a distance of three or four thousand leagues to disturb their common tranquillity. The present state of Spain had been produced by the cordial understanding between England and France, two of the most free nations of the earth; and that was a result which no man could be proud of. Whilst he hoped that that cordial understanding would yet ripen into friendship, he hoped that it would in future be employed in the promotion of commerce, in the propagation of intelligence, in the increase of freedom, in the destruction of slavery, and not for the substitution of a tyrannical Government for mild and constitutional sway. Lord John Russell next condemned the proceedings which had taken place in regard to Ireland, and referred to the secession of Mr. Gladstone. He also adverted to the agricultural question, and gave his opinion that protection was the bane of agriculture, rather than its support.—Mr. MILES, in reference to this opinion, asked how it was, if the noble lord thought so, he had himself proposed a fixed duty upon corn? (Hear.) Had the noble lord found it convenient to alter his views and to ally himself to the League? (Hear, hear.) From the noble lord's own statement it would appear as though a sudden conversion had come upon him, and he had determined to follow out the principles of that body.—Mr. GLADSTONE explained the motives which had induced him to resign. He spoke in terms of great friendship and respect for his colleagues, and explicitly stated that he did not resign from any difference of opinion with them on general subjects, but intimated that his reason was because he thought their proposed measures as to Maynooth College did not agree with his own. He believed the spirit of their measure with respect to the endowment of the College of Maynooth differed from the spirit of that which he had deliberately recommended. His uniform conviction was, that though he was not to fetter his judgment by reference to abstract theory, yet that it was due to the public to place himself in a position to form an honest and an unsuspicious judgment. He had, therefore, taken a course which had caused him much pain, and which had separated him from men with whom he had acted in public life, and of

whom he was bound to say he continued to regard them with unaltered sentiments of public regard and private attachment. (Hear.)—Sir R. PEEL fully confirmed Mr. Gladstone's statement, and spoke of that right hon. gentleman in most complimentary and friendly terms, expressing his personal esteem for him, and admiration of his talents. The right hon. baronet, after explaining these points, said, "I refer to these substantial facts in answer to the small insinuations of the noble lord." Sir R. Peel then adverted to the speech of Lord J. Russell, which he characterised as one of the most bitter party speeches which could be well imagined. The right hon. baronet defended the course of the Government in regard to the negotiations with France. He had never (he said) asked more of the French Government than that which he ultimately got—a fair and reasonable reparation. He should have felt that he was pursuing a course inconsistent with good policy if he had asked for a reparation humiliating to France. He denied that Government had complimented itself at the close of last session on account of its wisdom. All that had been stated was, that the differences had been adjusted by the justice and moderation of the respective Governments of the two countries. He rejoiced in the good understanding which now existed between the two countries, as there must from their proximity to each other be a good understanding, or something differing little from downright hostility between them. There was not one reparation made by France to us which he would not have made to France himself if the circumstances had been reversed. (Hear.) Sir R. Peel thus disposed of the accusation made against France of truckling to this country:—"The French Government has been charged with a dishonourable subservience to England and to English interests. I do not believe, however, that the eminent men of France can entertain any such opinion. Look at the French Chambers and see what is there passing—not in detail, but at the general tone of language and feeling which there prevails. I do not believe, however, that men so distinguished as Dupin, Molé, and De Tocqueville, eminent alike as an orator, a writer, and politician, can seriously believe that the French Government have dishonoured France. But these charges will be brought against the one and the other." In the concluding portion of his speech, Sir R. Peel made an important disclosure of his intentions in regard to financial matters. He said:—"I am aware that the general practice has been to defer the financial statement until April or May. That course would have dictated that I should state nothing until at any rate the estimate had been proposed; but I thought it better, when allusion had once been made to the continuance of the Income-tax, when so important and so serious a question had once been mooted, I thought it better not to observe the course of former precedent, but at once to place a general outline of our financial scheme before the House and the country. (Loud cheers.) It will be seen that measures affecting several important branches of commerce will be introduced, and so I thought this the wisest course—though subject to some inconvenience, and opposed to the rule of ordinary practice. The next week shall not elapse without the statement to which I have alluded. (Hear, hear.) The house will then have the opportunity of determining whether under us the condition of the country has deteriorated, or whether we continue to possess that confidence, without which we could not usefully conduct its affairs, and without which—the noble lord will pardon me for saying—no Government ought to remain in office." (Loud cheers.)—Mr. VILLIERS contended that the present prosperity of the country was owing to the relaxation of the protective system.

In reply to some remarks from Mr. SHEL, Sir JAMES GRAHAM said it was the determination of the Government to propose an Irish Registration Bill this session. The Maynooth question and the Academical Education Bill would precede it.

Lord PALMERSTON referred at some length to the questions mooted between this country and France. In reference to the right of search his lordship said he was afraid that out of complaisance to the present Ministers of France, her Majesty's Government were about to sacrifice the great principles of a measure for which the British Parliament had always evinced the warmest interest.

The Address was unanimously carried, and the house adjourned at eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

THE SESSIONAL ORDERS.—A desultory conversation arose respecting the accustomed Sessional Orders, some of which were postponed. In the course of the discussion Mr. T. DUNCOMBS renewed a notice which he had given last session of Parliament, of his intention to move for a select committee to inquire whether, in any counties or boroughs empowered under the Reform Act to send members to the House of Commons, such members were returned through the illegal or unconstitutional interference of members of the House of Peers. The hon. gentleman said he would undertake to prove that three-fourths of the temporal Peers and two-thirds of the Bishops were guilty of an infringement of the privileges of the House of Commons.

RAILWAY BILLS.—On the standing order which limits the presentation of petitions for private Bills to twenty one days from the first Friday after the meeting of Parliament, Lord HOWICK suggested that Railway Bills should be excepted from the rule, and that twenty-one days from the presentation of the report of the Board of Trade should be allowed to the promoters of every scheme so reported on to make up their minds whether to proceed with the Bill or not.—Sir R. PEEL said he would consider the proposition.—Lord HOWICK then alluded to the fact, that business to a great extent, and with immense profit, had been done in certain railways labouring under great depression in the market, and which, a few hours afterwards, had been favourably reported on; and said that such intended favourable reports must, somehow or other, have been known to the parties so speculating.—Mr. V. SMITH asked whether or not the Government intended to stand by the reports of the railway department of the Board of Trade. (Hear, hear.) Was that house to be placed in the position of deciding upon railway schemes, with the weight of Government thrown in one way or the other?—Sir R. PEEL said he conceived that such reports could never be regarded in any other light than firstly, as an elucidation of the facts of the case; and secondly as a recommendation founded on such elucidation. (Hear, hear.) Now, in his (Sir R. Peel's) opinion, the weight that ought to be attached to the decisions of the Board would very much depend on the clearness and the strength of the reasons given by that Board for such decisions. (Hear, hear.) He did not think that ever it was intended that the reference to the Board of Trade should go beyond this. (Hear, hear.) He should greatly deplore and deprecate any course which should involve the Government, as a Government, in matters of private bills or the commercial speculations of associated parties. (Cheers.) Neutrality was the best course—one most acceptable to the people, and most consonant to the character of the Administration of this country, from whatever party formed.

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.—In answer to a question from Mr. Rice upon the subject of a recently published report respecting Harbours of Refuge, Sir R. PEEL expressed his regret that a document which had been confidentially prepared for the Government alone should have been published to the world. He had not the slightest idea through what channel these documents were obtained, but somehow or other the newspapers continually managed to get hold of them. (A laugh.) As the report of the harbours of refuge had been published, he had of course no objection to comply with the request of the hon. member for Dover, and to lay it upon the table. The report had occupied the most serious attention of her Majesty's Ministers. To the opinions of the very distinguished officers who had formed that commission great weight would naturally be attached. At the same time, he (Sir R. Peel) felt that the cost of carrying out their recommendations would be very great indeed. Take, for instance, the case of Dover alone, there would be a sum required of not less than £2,500,000. Now, with respect to one of the ports mentioned by the commissioners—he meant Holyhead—the recommendations made by them would be at once carried into effect, for the importance of the intercourse between Ireland and this country required that this should be the case. (Hear, hear.) But upon the other recommendations of the report, Government had not yet come to any decision.

THE ADDRESS.—POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Mr. CHARTERIS brought up the report of the Address to her Majesty. On the question that it be read a second time, Mr. HUMR regretted that, though her Majesty in the Address was congratulated on the prosperity of the finances, there was no mention of any relief for the people, either in the shape of reduced taxation or in the diminution of duties imposed upon articles of primary necessity essential to the support and employment of the lower classes. He trusted that he should yet find Ministers combining economy and retrenchment with those principles of free trade which some hon. gentlemen thought ruinous to the country, but which he believed to be absolutely necessary for its welfare and for the development of its resources.—Mr. WILLIAMS insisted on the necessity of retrenchment, and said the state of the country was not so satisfactory as to warrant the congratulations in the Speech.—Mr. S. CRAWFORD regretted that the Speech did not contain a promise that a measure should be immediately introduced into Parliament founded on the recommendations of the Commission on the Tenure of Land in Ireland. He never knew the state of Ireland so lawless as it was at present; and it would be impossible to improve it till some law were passed regulating the condition of landlord and tenant.—Mr. WAKLEY said he imagined, from the terms of the Speech, that it was now decided to continue the Income-tax. That was an obnoxious tax to the people of England; but if a sliding scale were applied to it, the feelings of the country would be much modified respecting it; especially, should it be accompanied by a reduction of the duties levied on articles of necessary consumption. He then proceeded to complain of the great distress now prevailing among the unskilled labourers; he hoped that, when Sir James Graham brought in his new bill of settlement, he would move for a committee to inquire into their condition, which was most deplorably wretched. He regretted that there was no intimation of the intentions of the Government with respect to the New Poor-law. That law was still unsettled, and, as it now stood, could not be maintained much longer in this country. Mr. Wakley then censured the determination of the Irish members not to attend this session in their places in Parliament. The Irish members made great complaints against English members for not attending to the grievances of their country—perhaps justly; but he had never seen any of them bring forward a series of measures which he would propose for the relief of Ireland, even in a native Parliament on College-green. In pursuing such a negative course of action, they were neither acting justly by English members, nor wisely by themselves.—The report was then agreed to, and the house adjourned at eight o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Their lordships met at twelve o'clock. The Lord Chancellor appeared at the table, and announced that her Majesty had appointed half-past two to receive the Address, at Buckingham Palace. At a quarter before two, the Lord Chancellor, accompanied by the Marquis Camden and Lord Glenlyon, the mover and seconder of the Address, the Duke of St. Albans, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl of Ellenborough, Earl Nelson, Lord Colchester, Lord Hawarden, Lord Redesdale, and other noble peers, proceeded with the Address to the Palace.—The house will not meet again till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The speaker, in his state carriage, accompanied by a number of the members of this house, also waited upon her Majesty with the Address agreed to on Wednesday evening. Many of the members were dressed in uniform. At the meeting of the house in the afternoon, the speaker stated that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to return the following answer to the Address:—

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—
"I return you my warmest thanks for your loyal and dutiful address.
"I rely with confidence and satisfaction on the result of your deliberations, and I trust they will tend to promote the prosperity of all classes of my people."

In answer to a question from Mr. F. Baring, Sir J. GRAHAM said he did not intend to introduce the Ecclesiastical Courts Bill this session. Mr. Ewart put some questions respecting the hostilities between Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, in answer to which, Sir R. PEEL said that when the proposal for interference was made to France, that Government at once hearkened to the call, and joined in their efforts. He trusted that, with the concurrence of Brazil, the three Governments, by acting in complete concert, would make such representations to the belligerent parties as would terminate these disastrous events.

RAILWAYS.—Lord G. SOMERSET moved for leave to bring in the six following Bills:—the Companies Consolidation Bill; the Lands Clauses Consolidation Bill; the Railway Clauses Consolidation Bill; the Companies Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Bill; the Lands Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Bill; the Railway Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Bill; the object of the Government in introducing bills was to embody the statutes which already existed in one uniform act. A long discussion ensued, in the course of which Sir R. PEEL said he had that day had an interview with his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade, and he thought it would not be desirable to postpone the presentation of those reports that related to railways that might be considered to belong to a particular class, not immediately bearing on other railways, till the whole of the reports should be ready. His right hon. friend would be prepared in the course of next week to take one particular class of railways—say the Kentish lines—and present, during the week thereon, that class and proceed with various others.—Col. SIMMONDS asked if any of the four or five gentlemen composing the Commission were connected, directly or indirectly, with any of those railroads which had been brought under their consideration?—Lord G. SOMERSET said, all he knew from the communications which had been given was, that parties already expressed themselves satisfied with the fairness and intelligence with which the cases that came before the Committee had been discussed.—Mr. WAKLEY said, it was stated generally and openly by parties acquainted with railway subjects that there must have been private information in the market, or parties could not have made such enormous sums of money within a few weeks. (Hear, hear.) It was clear that certain parties in the City who were engaged in the sale of railway shares happened to be right in their speculations, and were not wrong in any one instance for several weeks; and one gentleman made £40,000 by the sale of shares in a single day, the shares having gone from a small premium to a premium of £9 10s. or £10 in the course of a few hours.—After some conversation on this subject, leave was given to bring in the bills.

LAW OF SETTLEMENT.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM said that he would, on next Tuesday, move for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of consolidating the law of settlement in England.

IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Lord CLEMENTS moved for some returns connected with the Irish Constabulary force, which were granted. A return of the number of Railway Companies which have complied with the act of last session for regulating the conveyance of passengers in third-class carriages, was moved for by Mr. WALLACE.

THE CORN LAWS.—A warm discussion was raised in the latter part of the sitting, in consequence of a remark made by Mr. COBURN, of the absence of any allusion to the Corn Laws in the Royal Speech. The leaders of the League in the house, and the chiefs of the agricultural interest, nearly all engaged in the debate.—Mr. BRIGHT made a speech that was denounced by Mr. STAFFORD O'BRIEN as "bullying" in its tone, and said that if he thought to set the tenants of England against their landlords by such vituperation, he was much mistaken.—Mr. COBURN and the hon. member for Manchester were complimented by the Ministerial side for the temper and moderation they displayed.—Mr. VILLIERS and Mr. BANKES also spoke.—Sir R. PEEL, in a brief address, said he would not be provoked on such an occasion as the present into a discussion of the Corn laws.

The house then adjourned at a quarter to nine.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FRIDAY.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.—After the presentation of various petitions, Sir R. PEEL said he was of opinion that it would be expedient to appoint a select committee to consider the best mode of conducting private business, as there were so many railway bills before the house. He, therefore, requested Mr. WALLACE to postpone his proposed motion on the subject, which that hon. gent. consented to do.

GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—INCOME-TAX.—Sir R. PEEL subsequently rose and said, Sir, it may be convenient for me now to state the course which I intend to pursue on Friday next. I believe it will be competent for me, without moving for a Committee of Ways and Means, to take the course of moving a resolution to continue for a further period the laws which impose a tax on income. But as that is not the usual course of late years I propose, on Wednesday, to adopt the following proceeding, viz., to move for a Committee of Ways and Means, and then in the Committee of Ways and Means on Friday next, I shall propose a resolution to the effect, that the laws which impose a tax on income in Great Britain, and the law which imposes an additional stamp duty in Ireland, should be continued for a further limited period.—Mr. HUME: Will the right honourable gentleman explain to the house what are the taxes he intends to remit?—Sir ROBERT PEEL: I propose on Friday to enter into a general review of the subject, when I will state what course I intend to take, but I cannot enter into any explanation now. I will give the fullest statement on Friday next with respect to the nature of the proposals her Majesty's Government intend to adopt.

The house resolved into a Committee of Supply, when a desultory conversation arose respecting the financial condition of the country.

When the house resumed Mr. MANNERS SUTTON moved that a select committee be re-appointed to inquire into the administration of the law for the relief of the poor in the unions formed under the Act 22 Geo. III., c. 3, s. 83, and to report to the house their opinion whether it was expedient that the said union should be maintained.—Agreed to.

NEW WRIT.—On the motion of Mr. YOUNG a new writ was ordered to be issued for the election of a member for the county of Buckingham, in the room of Mr. Charles Scott Murray, who, since his election, had accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

The house then agreed to several resolutions regulating the periods for reading railway bills, and, at six o'clock, adjourned till Monday.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

NEW MEMBERS.—On Tuesday Mr. SOMES, member for Dartmouth, and Mr. CLIFTON, for North Lancashire, took the oaths and their seats.

NEW WRITS.—The SPEAKER informed the house that he had, during the recess, issued a new writ for the election of a new member for the borough of Dartmouth, in the room of Sir John Seale, deceased.—New writs were ordered for the election of members for the following places:—For the southern division of Wiltshire, in the room of Mr. William Sidney Herbert, who had accepted the office of her Majesty's Secretary at War; for the borough of Buckingham, in the room of Sir Thomas Fremantle, who had accepted the office of Chief Secretary of Ireland; for the borough of Stamford, in the room of Sir George Clerk, who had accepted the office of Master of the Mint.—A new writ was ordered for the election of a knight for the county of Tipperary, in the room of the Hon. Robert Otway Cave, deceased.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.—Lord ASHLEY: to move on Tuesday, Feb. 18, for leave to bring in a bill to regulate the hours of labour in factories.—Mr. YOUNG gave notice, on the part of Sir R. Peel, that it was his intention to make his financial statement to the house on Friday, 14th February.

PETITION AGAINST THE RETURN FOR DARTMOUTH.—A petition was presented complaining of the last return for the borough of Dartmouth.

MEDICAL REFORM BILL.—In answer to Mr. Wakley, Sir J. GRAHAM stated that he should introduce the Medical Reform Bill next Tuesday week.

LAW OF DEBTOR AND CREDITOR.—In answer to Mr. Hume, Sir J. GRAHAM said, that considering the immense change recently made in the law of debtor and creditor, and that the power of imprisonment for debts under £20 was abolished, he could not undertake, in the present session, to propose any new measure. It would be expedient, he thought, to give a certain time during which the recent change in the law should be tested by experience.

LORD STANLEY.—We regret to state that Lord Stanley is suffering from so severe an attack of gout in the knee, that his lordship is not able to leave his bedroom without assistance.

Upwards of 250 houses were last week burnt down in the village of Luc (Switzerland). The clergyman's residence and the town hall were also reduced to ashes. The total damage from the fire is estimated at 100,000*fr.* Provisions and necessaries have been sent in by the surrounding villages to the sufferers.

The department at the Post-office where letters used to be opened, has been abolished, the Government probably not desiring a repetition of the excitement which was created last session upon the subject.

THE THEATRES.

COVENT-GARDEN.

On Monday night last a monster Concert was announced at this theatre, which proved to be for the benefit of Mr. Alcroft, who for the last eight years has been giving annual entertainments of a similar nature to his friends and the public. The house was crowded to excess; the bill of fare was lengthy to excess, and the good humour of the audience was excessive also.

The Concert commenced with the Overture to "La Gazza Ladra," which was but indifferently played by an inefficient band, placed in the usual theatrical orchestra. In the front of the stage were placed four piano-fortes, and behind them rose a gallery of huge dimensions which we at first mistook for the choral department of a performance not promised in the programme. The vocalists were Madame Albertazzi, Mrs. Shaw, the Misses Smith, Miss Steele, Miss S. Novello, Miss Rainforth, Miss Hawes, and Madame F. Lablache; Messrs. Brizzi, C. and H. Braham, A. Giubilei, Handel Gear, W. H. Seguin, Signor F. Lablache, and Mr. H. Russell.

The instrumental department was graced by the presence of four fair pianists, Madame Dulcken, her sister, Mdlle. David, Miss C. Orger, and, that more than pianiste, Miss Bendixen. We had several other treats from many old favourites. Signor Negri conducted, and Mr. Thirlwall led the orchestral band.

Mr. Hackett, the American actor, made his first appearance this season on Tuesday, at this theatre, as Sir John Falstaff, in the first part of "King Henry the Fourth." The performance was not one to be commended; and as it has not yet been repeated, we shall say no more. Mr. Betty's *Holspur* was equally ineffective. Upon the whole, we do not think the production of the play will do much for the management. "Antigone" continues to be received with the greatest applause.

SADLER'S WELLS.

The production of the five act play of "Honesty" at Covent Garden last week—which has however since departed quietly from the bills of immortality, the lessee having found, for once, that "Honesty" was not the best policy—was followed up, on Thursday, by the bringing out of another five act drama at Sadler's Wells, written by Mr. Serle, and called "The Priest's Daughter," which promises to enjoy a longer existence. The scene is laid in Normandy, and the time chosen is the close of the eleventh century, when France was one vast field of feudal warfare and rapacity. Madeline (Mrs. Warner) is an orphan residing with a poor woman, Sybilla (Mrs. H. Marston). During one of the skirmishes she is protected from the insults of some soldiers by Count Robert (Mr. H. Marston), whom she has previously seen and admired; although she is conscious that disparity of rank must be an obstacle to their union. Sybilla is desirous that Madeline should wed her son, Luitprand (Mr. John Webster). The affections of the girl are, however, fixed upon Count Robert; and Sybilla prevails upon Ambrose (Mr. Phelps), the curé of St. Valerie, to use his influence with her. In a dilemma from the arguments on both sides, and yet determined not to wed Luitprand, she allows herself to be protected by Count Robert, and flies to his chateau. Ambrose, who is in reality the father of Madeline, although, as a priest, he dare not confess it openly, follows her to the castle, and endeavours to persuade her to return. She refuses, and he then goes back to the town, and tries to excite the people to take part with him against the Count. This they refuse to do, on the ground that Madeline has not that claim upon their assistance which she would be entitled to were she the daughter, wife, or sister of any of them. Ambrose then determines that she shall marry Luitprand, and to this effect introduces him into the castle, where, by confessing to Madeline that he (Ambrose) is her father, he prevails on her to wed the young man. He is about to perform the ceremony, when they are interrupted by Count Robert, who immediately accuses her of infidelity, and threatens to treat her in future as the mere fallen creature of his wishes. In the meantime the people have attacked the castle, and are repulsed, some of the ringleaders being taken prisoners. They are brought before Count Robert, and he offers to pardon them if Madeline will give him a kiss as a ransom for each, before them. She refuses, and the Count determines to behead them. Ambrose in the meantime poisons a goblet of wine, which the Count is about to drink from, when Madeline, yielding to her love for him, dashes it from his hand. This reassures the Count of her love for him, and he determines to make her his wife. Ambrose had, however, been a prey to such despair at finding the plan for poisoning the Count defeated, that he swallows some deadly poison himself, and dies at the conclusion of the piece.

It will be seen from the foregoing synopsis that there is considerable interest in the plot, although it may be objected to that it is of that kind which is rather suited to a melo-drama than a five-act play. But the situations are powerful: and the language bears evidence of great poetic feeling. It is also vigorous, and carefully written.

Of the acting generally we can speak in terms of the highest commendation. The principal part was that of Madeline, and Mrs. Warner acquitted herself in it most ably. Mr. Phelps was equally effective as the Priest, although an imitation of Macready sometimes came a little too forcibly to mar the general excellence of the performance. The remaining principal characters were well sustained by Mr. J. Webster, Mrs. and Mr. H. Marston. The latter gentleman does not lack energy nor perception, but there is occasionally a hardness in his style which is somewhat unpleasant.

There was considerable applause at the end of the play, and Mr. Serle was called before the curtain to acknowledge the cheers of the audience. He spoke most highly of the efforts of Mrs. Warner and Mr. Phelps to restore a taste for the legitimate drama, which remarks were responded to in a similar spirit. Indeed, as we have several times had the pleasure of stating, nothing can be more deserving of support than the very creditable manner in which this theatre has been conducted from the commencement of its present management.

LYCEUM.

Those who can imagine Keeley, as Mr. Boodle, travelling on the banks of the Danube, for an English sauce and pickle establishment—winning a chateau on the river in a lottery, and being compelled to pass one night in its ruined hall to establish his claim to it, amidst imaginary ghosts and wolves, and real fleas and gipsies, can conceive how comically he enacted the part, in an agreeable drama produced here on Monday night, and called "Taking Possession." The story which serves to introduce him in these predicaments, is to this effect. Karl (Mr. Craven), a young peasant, betrothed to Meta (Miss Arden), has purchased a ticket in a lottery—one of those grand affairs of which we sometimes receive a prospectus by the post, forwarded by unknown bankers in places a great way off. An old uncle (Mr. Meadows) places the ticket in the salt box for security, and he takes it out again by mistake to wrap some salt in that he gives a gipsy, Balthazar (Mr. Wigan), to eat with his meat. Balthazar sells the ticket to Mr. Boodle, and presently afterwards it turns up a prize—a castle on the Danube, which he starts per steamer to take possession of. In the meantime, Karl has discovered his loss, and as Balthazar was, in some measure, the cause of his misfortune, he determines to make reparation. Accordingly, he disguises himself as a German Student, and accompanies Boodle to his new residence, a dilapidated chateau, just better than a complete ruin. Here, with the assistance of his wife, Corra (Mrs. Wigan), he contrives to make Boodle so wretchedly frightened and uncomfortable, that he is at last happy, upon any terms, to give up all right to the property. It is accordingly restored to Karl, and the various parties find everything terminate satisfactorily.

We have said that Keeley was enormously funny as the traveller for the pickle warehouse. His terror and utter misery in the dreary moonlit chamber, where he must pass the night, was capably portrayed; contrasting richly with his swagger at first arriving amidst his tenantry—the "tenantry" being Balthazar's gipsies, who have lived a long time for nothing in the Castle, and whose ideas of paying rent are somewhat vague and unsatisfactory. Mr. Wigan's Balthazar was admirably dressed—so also was his German Student. He appears constantly to study the most effective manner in which he can supplant the old conventional theatrical modes of costume; and his impersonation of foreigners generally, especially scamps, is unequalled. Mrs. Wigan was also effective as Corra, reminding us of her old gipsy character in the "Beulah Spa." Mr. Meadows was droll enough as the old Seneschal, who, after the loss of the ticket, harps perpetually on one idea—that he put it in the salt-box.

There was considerable applause at the fall of the curtain, mingled with some disapprobation.

The principal fault of the piece was its construction, for the dialogue was sprightly and full of humour; but the plot was not sufficiently strong to keep up the interest of the audience through two acts. It is always a dangerous experiment to drop a curtain in the middle of a laugh, except at some exciting point of expectancy. The farces of "The Marriage Certificate," and "A Model of a Wife" followed, and the programme concluded with "Valentine and Orson," which appears destined to survive all the other Christmas pieces.

FRENCH PLAYS.

M. Lafont and Mdlle. Nathalie continue to be great favourites at the St. James's Theatre; indeed, as their engagement is drawing to a close, the desire to witness their performance increases, and Mr. Mitchell has announced that the theatre will be open every evening next week.

A very entertaining vaudeville, entitled "Un Spectacle à la Cour," was performed on Monday, the plot of which turns upon an incident in the life of Gretry, the composer, who, being in the country for study and seclusion, takes some lessons for his amusement, in music, from a provincial professor. The great composer, however, appears so stupid, that he is handed over to the care of the daughter. She learns so much from Gretry, that she is enabled eventually to take the place of the *prima donna* at a very short notice in one of his operas, the principal singer having eloped that evening. She sings before the court, and succeeds so well, that a rich present is made her, which enables her to marry a rustic lover, who had been terribly jealous hitherto. The part of the girl *Colombe* was rendered exceedingly effective by Mdlle. Nathalie, and a favourite of several seasons. M. Leonard played admirably, with a fund of humour, in the character of the lover. The drama of "Catherine, ou la Croix d'Or," was performed the same evening, M. Lafont appearing as the sergeant, *Austerlitz*, and Mdlle. Nathalie as Catherine. This piece was formerly translated and played at the Hay-

market, under the name of "The Maid of Croissy," when, if we mistake not, Mr. Webster and Mrs. Walter Lacy filled the chief rôles.

The houses have been excellently well attended by the chief part of the fashionable world now in London; indeed, there is every reason to believe that the lessee will make this the most lucrative, as well as the most attractive season he has yet had. Independently of the excellence of the chief performers, the merit of the stock company, and arrangements generally, appear to give universal satisfaction.

PRINCESS'

A pleasant farce called "The Brigadier" has been several times performed at this theatre. We believe there is a French piece, called "Chamberan," to which it bears some analogy. Mr. Wallack plays the principal character, *Bras-de-fer*, admirably: in fact, the part is one of those so peculiarly suited to his style. Mr. Maddox has been to Paris in the hope of engaging the thirty-six wonderful children, who are now creating such excitement by their dancing, at the Académie Royale. He has not, however, succeeded: we understand that Mr. Lumley has secured their services during the ensuing Opera season, although the lessee of the Princess' offered them £250 a week for two months.

Mdlle. Nau will return to this house; and we hear that Mr. Forrest and Miss Cushman are amongst the latest engagements.

STRAND.

A laughable burlesque upon "Antigone" has been produced at this theatre, and with the most complete success. It is written by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, who has been very happy in seizing the best points in the original, capable of being turned into fun. The scene is a parody on the old Greek theatre, in the shape of the outside of Richardson's show. Mr. G. Wild is the devoted *Antigone*, and Mr. Hall the *Creon* of the piece; and the latter gentleman introduces some excellent imitations of O'Connell, Charles Keane, and others. Mr. R. Romer is ludicrously droll as the conductor of the orchestra: perhaps it is not going too far to say, that he is the great feature of the burlesque.

The concluding tableau, in which the various characters crouch under umbrellas, to avoid the vengeance of the gods, in the shape of a shower of rain, was hailed with shouts of laughter—we mean no pun.

The burlesque kept the audience, which was a very full one, in high good humour from its commencement until the fall of the curtain, and was loudly applauded throughout. It is full of puns and smart things; and will, doubtless, prove a hit for the management. Since Monday it has been repeated every night, with results equally satisfactory to the treasury, the author, the actors, and the audience.

OLYMPIC.

During the week, the opera of "The Maid of Jndah" has been performed at this theatre, the character of Rebecca being played by Miss Alicia Nunn, a lady well known in the musical circles. She was supported by Mr. Binge as *Iouahoe*, and a Mr. Fedor as *Cedric*; and a Signor Hermaine conducted. This cast does not exhibit great operatic strength, nor can we say that the opera was well performed; but it was evident that all engaged were trying to do their best, except one of the *dramatis personæ*, who might at all events have committed the words of his part to memory, instead of trusting entirely to the prompter.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Stanton" refers to a diagram which we have not seen.

"Hocceus Ambulator."—The Hints will prove a valuable addition to our article. They will be inserted shortly.

"Anti-Humburg."—The "Chess Studies" is a very good work for those who are advanced in the art, but it is not so practically useful as Lewis's *Treatise*. We have not time to examine the second question. His remarks on problems are just and good—since the re-commencement of the Chess department, we have endeavoured to avoid all improbable positions and outrageous stratagems.

"R. Dudding."—The problems he has kindly forwarded are not sufficiently clever for our use.

"F. N."—Solution quite wrong.

"H. P." "S. R. C." and "Ignotus."—Their problems are thankfully acknowledged, and are under consideration.

"Seacchi."—See 21st law, quoted in our paper, Jan. 25.

"Juvenis."—The solution to Loli's problem, in our next, not having the book he mentions among our Chess books.

"J. W. P."—His game has come to hand.

"H. L." "P. Bink."—The pieces in the problem alluded to might have been arranged better. Taking it altogether, it is not a clever problem.

"F. C. H."—The white King and black Queen are badly placed. It is a very indifferent problem.

"W. N. Juvenis."—There is no law for this. We should say that he ought not to castle, as it would not then be a penalty.

"Zodine."—Problem received.

"A. B."—We are all liable to mistakes. Problem No 235, in the "Chess Player's Chronicle," we cannot correct, there being some piece or pieces omitted.

A game kindly presented to us by a German player will be given next week.

The two periodicals just received, are excellent numbers. The "Chess Player's Chronicle" for February, contains the most difficult four-move problem we have ever seen. The games are very instructive—in this department, our magazine is far superior to "Le Palamede." "Le Palamede" in its matter is interesting, but the new diagrams introduced in the body of the work are absolutely frightful.

We have to thank a valued correspondent for satisfactorily proving to us that our statement respecting the comparative merits of English and Parisian chess club players, was erroneous. Not being sufficiently acquainted with the strength of the players in Le Cercle des Echecs we applied to a friend of ours who had tried his skill in both clubs, and who perhaps gave too partial an opinion. We had no idea, until the receipt of F. D's letter, that our countrymen were numerically so strong in the art of "Chess play."

The members of the Britol Chess Club have recently subscribed a purse, for the purpose of presenting Mr. Stanton a splendid set of chess men.

The annual dinner of the Liverpool Chess Club took place on the 14th of January.

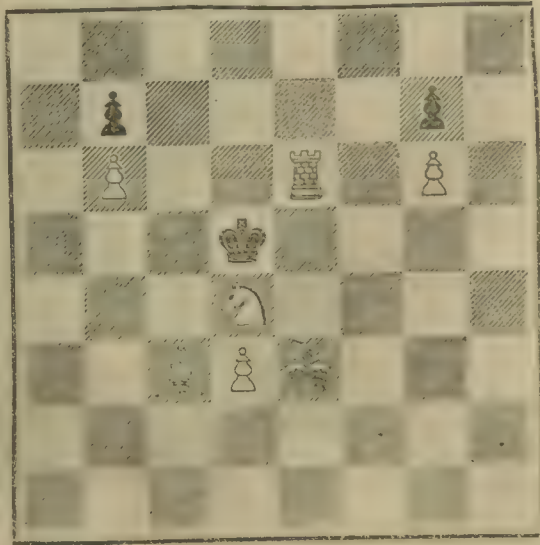
Solution to Problem, No. 57.

- | WHITE. | BLACK. |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. K to ad. Q B 3rd | K to his 5th (best) |
| 2. K to ad. Q 2nd | K to his 4th |
| 3. K to ad. K 2nd | K to his 5th |
| 4. K to ad. K 3rd | K to Q 5th |
| 5. K to ad. Q 3rd | K to his 5th |
| 6. Q P checks | K moves |
| 7. Kt to K B 5th mates | |

Solution to Problem, No. 58.

- | WHITE. | BLACK. |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kt to Q B 5th ch | K to Kt 3rd (best) |
| 2. Q to Q R 6th ch | K takes Kt |
| 3. Q to Q R 5th ch | K to Q 5th |
| 4. Bp to K B 2nd | K to Q 6th |
| 5. Q to her 2nd mate | |

PROBLEM, No. 59 By J. KLING, Esq.
White to move and mate in four moves.



WHITE.
Solution in our next.



BADMINTON HOUSE, AND THE LAWN, ON SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 1.

FESTIVITIES AT BADMINTON.

This magnificent seat of the ducal family of Beaufort has just been the scene of great rejoicing, consequent on the Marquis of Worcester attaining his majority on Saturday last.

Badminton House, it may be requisite to inform some of our readers, is situated near the Wiltshire border of Gloucestershire, 24 miles south-west of the city of Gloucester, equidistant (15 miles) from Bath and Bristol, and about 5½ miles east by north from Chipping Sodbury. The entire pile was erected in 1682, on a very extensive scale, for the family residence of the Dukes of Beaufort. It is built on the French model: the principal front is shown in one of our illustrations: it consists of a noble centre, ornamented with columns, and crowned with two cupolas; the wings are likewise embellished with pilasters, paneling, and urns, and terminate with two noble gateways. The offices are very extensive: the stabling is, perhaps, unrivalled in this country, the Duke of Beaufort's stud numbering nearly 150 first-rate hunters and carriage horses; and the domain comprises one of the noblest deer parks in England, being nearly 9 miles in circumference.

The festivities may be said to have commenced in the neighbourhood of Badminton, on Thursday, such was the enthusiasm of the tenantry, and indeed, of the inhabitants, generally, of the surrounding districts, by whom the Duke of Beaufort is universally beloved.

But for the recent demise of Lady Anne Culling Smith, and the serious indisposition of the Earl of Mornington, the festivities would have been kept up without intermission during the whole week, with the usual accompaniments of illuminations and fireworks. These latter were necessarily dispensed with under the circumstances; but, by the liberality of the Duke, the poorer dependents on his Grace's princely domain, (for whom such amusements are generally contrived) were provided with a very excellent

substitute, in an abundance of good fare, which was distributed with unsparing hand to all applicants during two days. The carcasses of no less than six oxen were given away, besides an immense quantity of other viands, and twenty hogsheads of strong ale.

The distinguished visitors had mostly assembled by Thursday. At eight o'clock in the evening, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge arrived from Belvoir Castle.

The Duke of Beaufort received his illustrious guest in the entrance-hall of the mansion, and led the way to the drawing-room, where his Royal Highness was introduced to the distinguished circle there assembled.

Dinner was served at half-past eight o'clock in the Great Hall, a superb apartment, which was brilliantly illuminated for the occasion. Among its more striking ornaments is a most elaborate piece of Grecian sculpture, in the form of a sarcophagus, cut from one entire block of marble, on the sides of which is represented, in alto relievo, a grand bacchanalian procession. This magnificent work of art, which is in a high state of preservation, was dug out of some ruins at Rome, and presented to the third Duke of Beaufort by Cardinal Alberoni. The walls are hung with antique sporting pictures, and the hall was otherwise decorated with a choice collection of plants.

The following is a list of the thirty-five guests who sat down to the sumptuous banquet:—

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis and Marchioness of Normanby, Earl Howe, Viscount Curzon and Lady Georgiana Curzon, the Earl and Countess of Jersey and Lady Clementina Villiers, Earl Bathurst, Viscount and Viscountess Barrington and the Hon. Mr. Barrington, the Hon. Miss Barrington, Viscount Cantalupo, Lord Alvanley, Sir William and Lady Georgiana Codrington, Lady Harriet Mitchell and Miss Mitchell, Count Anthony Esterhazy, Count Kinski, Mr. and Mrs. John Stanley, Mr. Walter Long, M.P., Mr. Long, jun., Mr. Lovel, Mr. Bagot, Mr. Warburton, Dr. Quin; and Captain Mildmay, in attendance on the Duke of Cambridge.

The family circle included the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, the Marquis

of Worcester and the Ladies Blanche and Rose Somerset. The Duke of Cambridge occupied the centre of the table, having the Duchess of Beaufort and the Countess of Jersey respectively upon his right and left; in their turn supported by the Marquis of Normanby and Earl Bathurst. The Duke of Beaufort faced the illustrious Prince, having the Marchioness of Normanby and Viscountess Barrington upon his right and left hand.

The banquet was of the most sumptuous description, and the table was almost covered with gold and silver plate.

During dinner, the band of the Gloucestershire Yeomanry Cavalry, who are in the private service of his Grace, were stationed in an adjoining apartment, and played a variety of favourite music.

The ladies retired at half-past nine o'clock, and were subsequently joined by the gentlemen in the drawing-room, where tea and coffee were served.

There was an evening performance of music, and the festivities of the day closed with a dance.

On Friday morning, the Duke of Cambridge, attended by Capt. Mildmay, and accompanied by the Marquis of Worcester, the Earl of Jersey, Viscount Barrington, Count Esterhazy, Viscount Curzon, the Hon. Mr. Barrington, and Mr. Walter Long, M.P., left the mansion on a shooting excursion. The party proceeded to the Swan Grove cover, a favourite and extensive preserve upon the outskirts of the park, where about 300 head of game were killed.

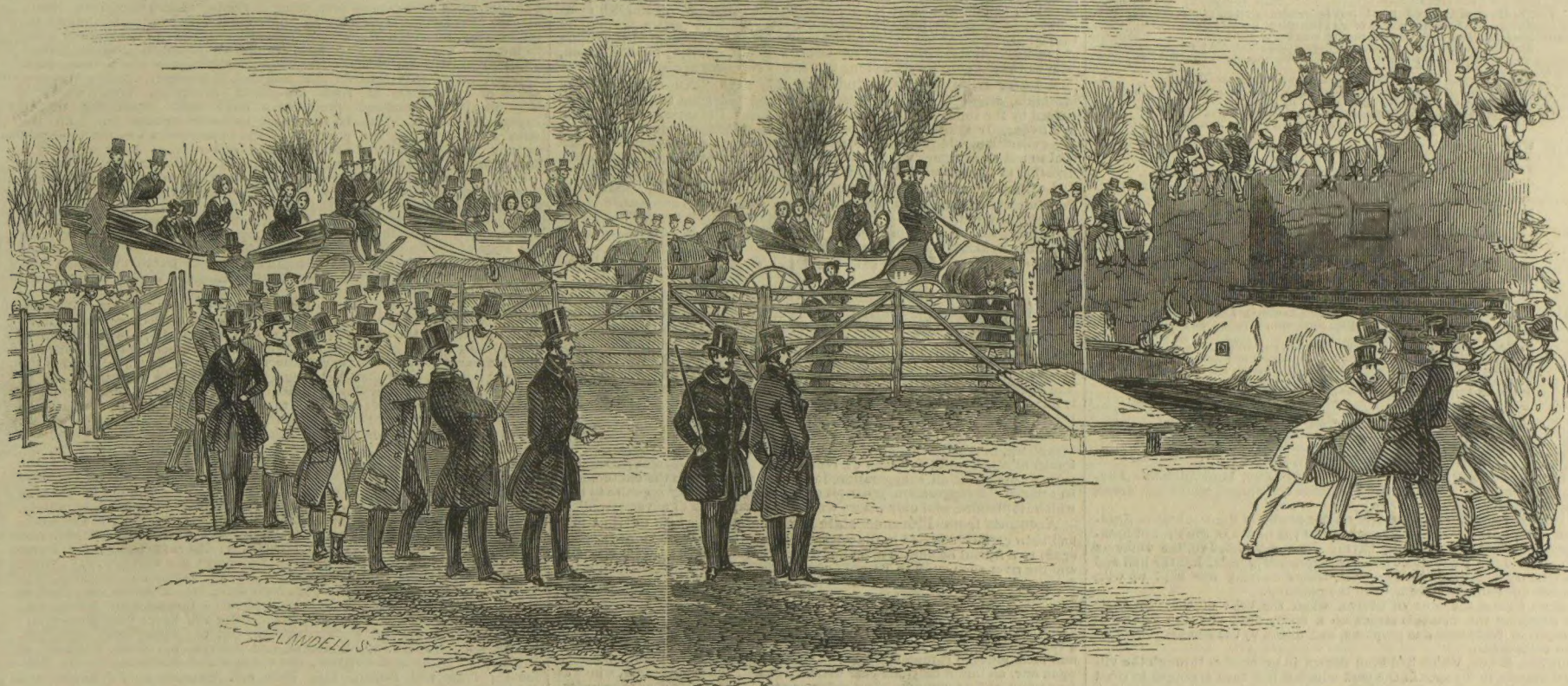
The Duke of Beaufort was obliged to attend a magistrates' meeting at Cross Hands, in the neighbourhood, but his Grace returned to Badminton early in the afternoon.

At four o'clock, the carcass of an ox, trussed and spitted, and gaily decorated with blue ribbons, was conveyed (on a sledge drawn by three oxen) through the village of Badminton, to the mansion and thence to Cherry Tree Bottom, a convenient locality in the park, where it had been arranged to roast the carcass entire.

The Duchess of Beaufort, the Marquis of Normanby, and several other of



PROCESSION OF THE OX.



THE OX ROASTED

the distinguished guests came out to the lawn to view the procession, which was accompanied by a great number of the villagers.—This spirited scene of old English festivity is shown in one of our Engravings.

At a quarter-past four o'clock, the tenantry of the Duke of Beaufort, to the number of two hundred, sat down to dinner in the servants' hall, a fine old baronial apartment in the south-west wing of the mansion. The walls of this room are hung round with upwards of sixty heads of the red deer which abound at Badminton, with the antlers entire. Festoons of evergreens were suspended on the walls, in every variety of form and direction, and at either end of the room were exhibited transparencies—the one representing the Beaufort arms, and the words "Hail! welcome guests," and the other bearing the following inscription—"Feb. 1, 1845. Many happy returns of the day to the Most Noble the Marquis of Worcester." There were besides an infinity of banners and flags, bearing appropriate devices and inscriptions.

Mr. Wedge, the noble Duke's land steward, presided; and grace was said by the Duke's domestic chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Buckley, rector of Badminton.

The bill of fare is a fine specimen of English living:—it includes a baron of beef, weighing 300lbs.; 6 haunches of venison; 6 necks of venison; 2 fillets of veal; 2 loins of veal; 4 hams; 2 rounds of beef; 6 dishes of

boiled owls; 6 dishes of roast fowls; 40 pheasants; 20 hares; 4 boiled legs of mutton; 4 roast saddles of mutton; and 6 venison pies; 20 jellies, 16 apple tarts; 18 plum puddings; 65 dishes of dessert.

To this excellent fare, it need scarcely be added, the guests did ample justice.

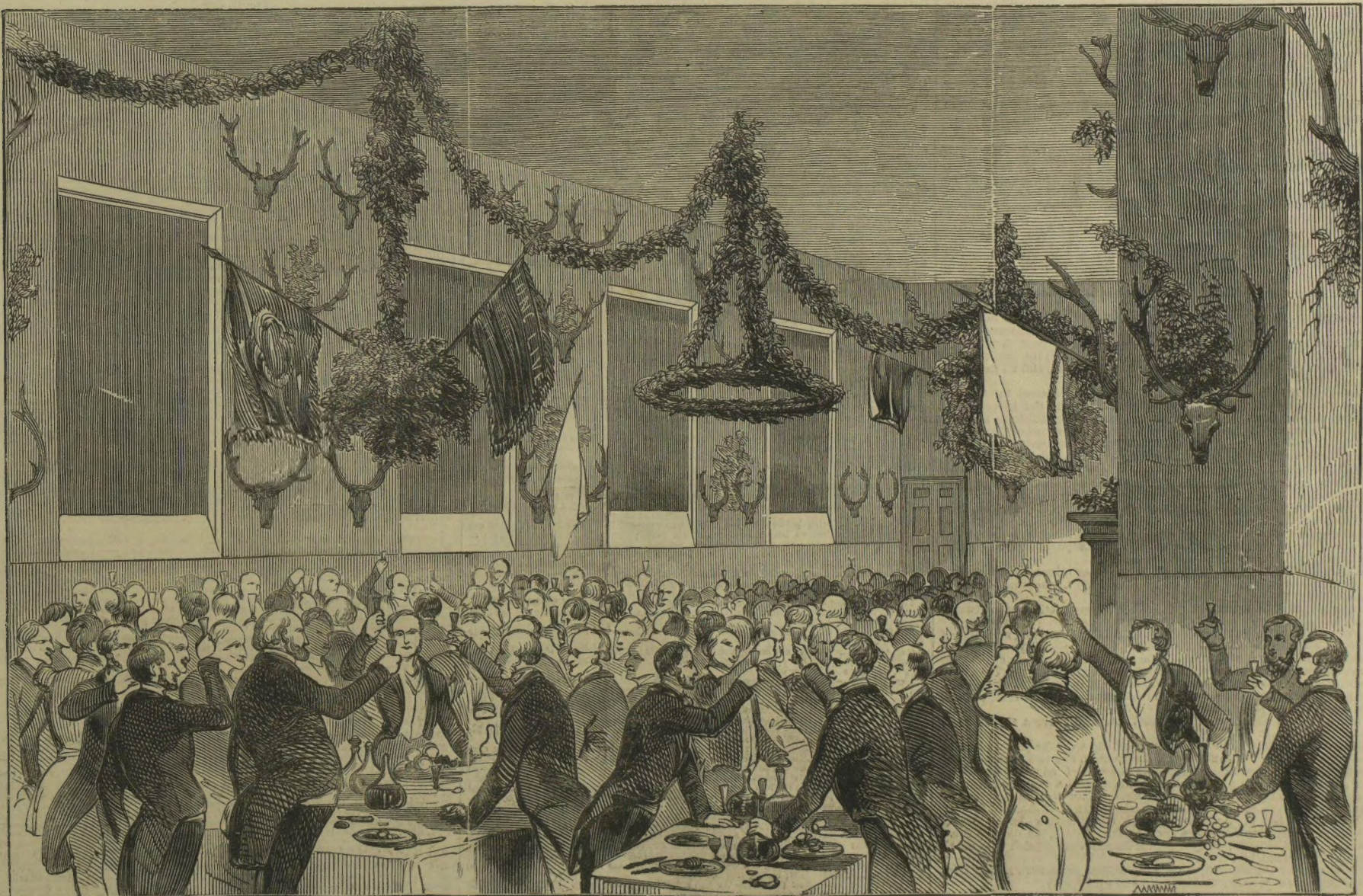
Within a very short period after the return of the shooting party, nearly the whole of the distinguished company in the mansion, left the drawing-room and proceeded to the hall, where the tenantry were seated. The Duke of Cambridge led in the Duchess of Beaufort; the Duke of Beaufort followed with the Marchioness of Normanby; and then came the Marquis of Worcester, leading Lady Georgiana Curzon, the other guests following in succession. At the entrance of the party, every man rose from table simultaneously, and the next instant the vaulted roof of the fine old hall reverberated with cheers of affectionate welcome.

The distinguished company having more than once made the circuit of the hall, retired; and, shortly afterwards, a banquet was served on the same scale of princely magnificence as on the previous day. Covers were laid for forty-two, the additions being Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, Lord Glamis, Lords Alfred and George Paget, Sir W. Massey Stanley, the Hon. W. L. Bathurst, and Mr. Granville Somerset.

After the ladies had retired to the drawing-room, the Duke of Beaufort and the Marquis of Worcester, accompanied by Earl Bathurst, the Earl of

Jersey, and Sir W. Codrington, Lord A. Paget, and several other] noblemen paid a second visit to the hall in which the tenantry were dining, and were received with enthusiastic applause. Mr. Niblett, of Bristol, who was among the guests, then proposed the health of the Duke of Beaufort, which was drunk with all the honours, and responded to by his Grace with great kindness. Mr. Niblett then gave the health of the Marquis of Worcester, which was received with nine times nine rounds of applause, and the well-known "View halloo" of the Beaufort hunt. One of our illustrations represents this animated scene. The Marquis of Worcester appropriately returned thanks, expressing a hope that he should meet those present "at home and in the field for many years to come."

After the health of Sir W. Codrington had been drunk, the distinguished party withdrew from the hall; but, in a few moments, returned, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, who was received with three distinct rounds of applause. His Royal Highness then proposed the healths of the Duke of Beaufort and the Marquis of Worcester, which were again drunk with enthusiasm. The noble marquis was about to reply, when Mr. Niblett, addressing Sir W. Codrington, said, the company would feel highly honoured if his Royal Highness would condescend to remain in the hall while a song, composed in honour of the occasion, was sung by a gentleman present. His Royal Highness, in the kindest manner, at once acquiesced, and having seated himself at the foot of one of the tables, the following song was sung



DINNER TO THE TENANTRY.—DRINKING THE HEALTH OF THE MARQUIS OF WORCESTER.

(From our City Correspondent.)

NEW CHRISTMAS GROUP.—Madame TUSSAUD and her SON'S greatest efforts, which may challenge Europe.—THE HOUSE of BRUNSWICK at ONE VIEW: George I., George II., George III., George IV., William IV., Queen Charlotte, Queen Caroline, Princess Charlotte, Colours, Dukes of York, Kent, Cambridge, Sussex, &c. the Robes of George IV., restored, the British orders of the Garter, Bath, Thistle, St. Patrick, The Victoria Cross, Mr. Colver, and Tom Thackeray. "Madame is one of the best sights in the metropolis."—The Times. Open from Eleven till Four, and from Seven till Ten.—Admission free. See Shilling's Napoleon Bonaparte. SIMONDS & BAZZAR, Regent Street, Portico. Entrance



RUINS OF GREYFRIARS CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

were—actually refused to live in it: thus setting an example to future Churchmen, which it appears from modern church history has not been very generally followed. The house was surrounded by an extensive garden, which, in 1561, was converted into a cemetery: thus, the history of the Church commences where most other histories end—in the graveyard.

From the time the Greyfriars' garden was devoted to the dead, it was gradually filled with illustrious names; hence a clever antiquarian writer, with more patriotism than *raisonnement*, has designated the Greyfriars' Church the Westminster Abbey of Scotland. One of the earliest burials was that of George Buchanan, the scholar; George Heriot, father of the famous Goldsmith, was, in 1610, also buried here, in a handsome tomb; the more celebrated son having been buried in London. Twelve years after the elder Heriot was carried to his last home, the history of the church itself commences, for in 1622 it was completed. This, it will be remembered, was the period when Episcopacy was in the ascendant, and James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England, was acknowledged as "the only supreme Governor of this realm, as well in all spiritual or ecclesiastical things or causes, as temporal." This doctrine, so hateful to the general body of Presbyterians, constantly met with opposition to the extent of tumult; and we learn from the historian Baillie, that on a certain Sunday morning, "when the Bishop of Argyle, in the Greyfriars, began to officiate, incontinent the serving maids began such a tumult as was never heard of in our nation since the Reformation." Nor was the rebellion of kitchen maids a mere passing ebullition; the feeling grew so strong against prelacy, that the year after the Government were fain to make a compromise, by executing the solemn "league and covenant." This was done in the Greyfriars' Church, of which Alexander Henderson, the leader of the spiritual or Presbyterian party, was already minister, &c.

It is a singular fact that the church was burnt down on the eve of the two-hundred and sixth anniversary of Henderson's induction. He died in 1646, and his tomb stands near the gate which leads to Heriot's Hospital.

"As the hour drew near," says Hetherington, in his graphic narrative, "the people from all quarters flocked to the spot, and before the Commissioner appeared, the church and church-yard were densely filled with the gravest, the wisest, and the best of Scotland's pious sons and daughters." After a prayer from Henderson, "Johnston of Warriston unrolled the vast sheet of parchment, and in a clear and steady voice, read the Covenant aloud. He finished and stood silent. A solemn stillness followed, deep, unbroken, sacred. Men felt the near presence of that dread Majesty to whom they were about to vow allegiance, and bowed their souls before Him in the breathless awe of silent adoration. * * Again a deep and solemn pause ensued; not the pause of irresolution, but of modest diffidence, each thinking every other more worthy than himself to place the first name upon this sacred bond. An aged nobleman, the venerable Earl of Sutherland, at last stepped slowly and reverentially forward, and, with throbbing heart and trembling hand, subscribed Scotland's covenant with God. All hesitation in a moment disappeared. Name followed name in swift succession, till all within the church had given their signatures. It was then removed into the church-yard, and spread out on a level grave-stone, to obtain the subscriptions of the assembled multitude. Here the scene became, if possible, still more impressive. The intense emotions of many became irrepressible. Some

wept aloud,—some burst into a shout of exultation,—some, after their names, added the words, *till death*,—and some, opening a vein, subscribed with their own blood. As the space became filled, they wrote their names in a contracted form, limiting them at last to the initials, till not a spot remained on which another letter could be subscribed."

The later memorabilia of this edifice may be shortly summed up. The citizens of Edinburgh seem always to have been pressed for room; they packed two or three congregations under one roof; they built their dwelling-houses one story above another to a height which makes a stranger giddy to behold; and finally, perceiving there was a profitless waste of room in the steeple of the Greyfriars Church, they converted it into a magazine for gunpowder! Accordingly (for it was almost a natural consequence), on the 7th of May, 1718, an explosion took place, and the steeple was destroyed. Instead of restoring so comparatively useless an appendage, "the expense whereof," says the quaint Maitland, "was estimated at the sum of £600 sterling," the town council decided on building a new church at the western end, which it was judged convenient to shorten by erecting a partition wall at the second pillar, so that both churches should be of an equal length. Thus a new place of worship was erected for little more than the cost of a new steeple. This excellent specimen of economical "church extension" was completed in 1721. In this state the church remained until its destruction by fire on Sunday the 19th of last month.

Let us now return for a moment to the church-yard, which is without exception one of the most interesting we ever inspected. It is filled with monuments, some of them interesting from the illustrious ashes they contain, and others for the beauty and elegance of their architecture, or for the quaintness of their sculptures and inscriptions. Amongst the former class we may enumerate the remains of Allan Ramsay the poet, Adam the architect, to whom and his brothers the British metropolis owes that splendid range of buildings, the Adelphi; Robertson the historian; Hugh Blair the author of sermons. It also contains the family-vault of Archbishop Sharpe, who was murdered by Hackman, but who was himself interred at the seat of his primacy, St. Andrew's; besides the vaults of many of the first families in Scotland, where the most interesting monument is that called the "martyrs," raised to several men who fell victims to religious persecution in the 17th century. Of the remains of more modern celebrities those of Henry Siddons (whose tomb has been recently opened to receive the remains of his wife) must not be forgotten.

We present two drawings of monuments. The first (No. 1) is that erected to "Mary Mac Math, by her loving husband, Francis Kinloch," who was Lord Provost of Edinburgh in 1674. The other contains a handsome effigy of—according to the inscription—"that most learned man, Mr. John Bayne, of Pitcarley, in Fifeshire, a famous Writer to the Signet, who died on the 18th of January, 1681, aged 60 years." His fame must have been purely local, for we never met with his name except on his handsome tomb. In his hand is a sort of bottle, which may be an ink horn. Though this be one of the most striking monuments in the ground, it is hidden behind a thick wall.

The recent unhappy disruption in the Scottish Church has so thinned the congregations of the establishment, that no difficulty was found in providing

for the spiritual wants of the worshippers of the Old and New Greyfriars, in neighbouring churches. It is indeed a question whether they will be rebuilt. They were, it appears, insured by the city authorities to the extent of £4000.

When entire, they formed a mass of masonry far from ornamental to the city, though, in their present state, they make a very pretty ruin. The New Church is much more seriously damaged than was first imagined. It is not a little remarkable that only one thing wholly escaped the flames, and that was—strange to say—a heap of coals!

LAUNCH OF THE TERRIBLE.

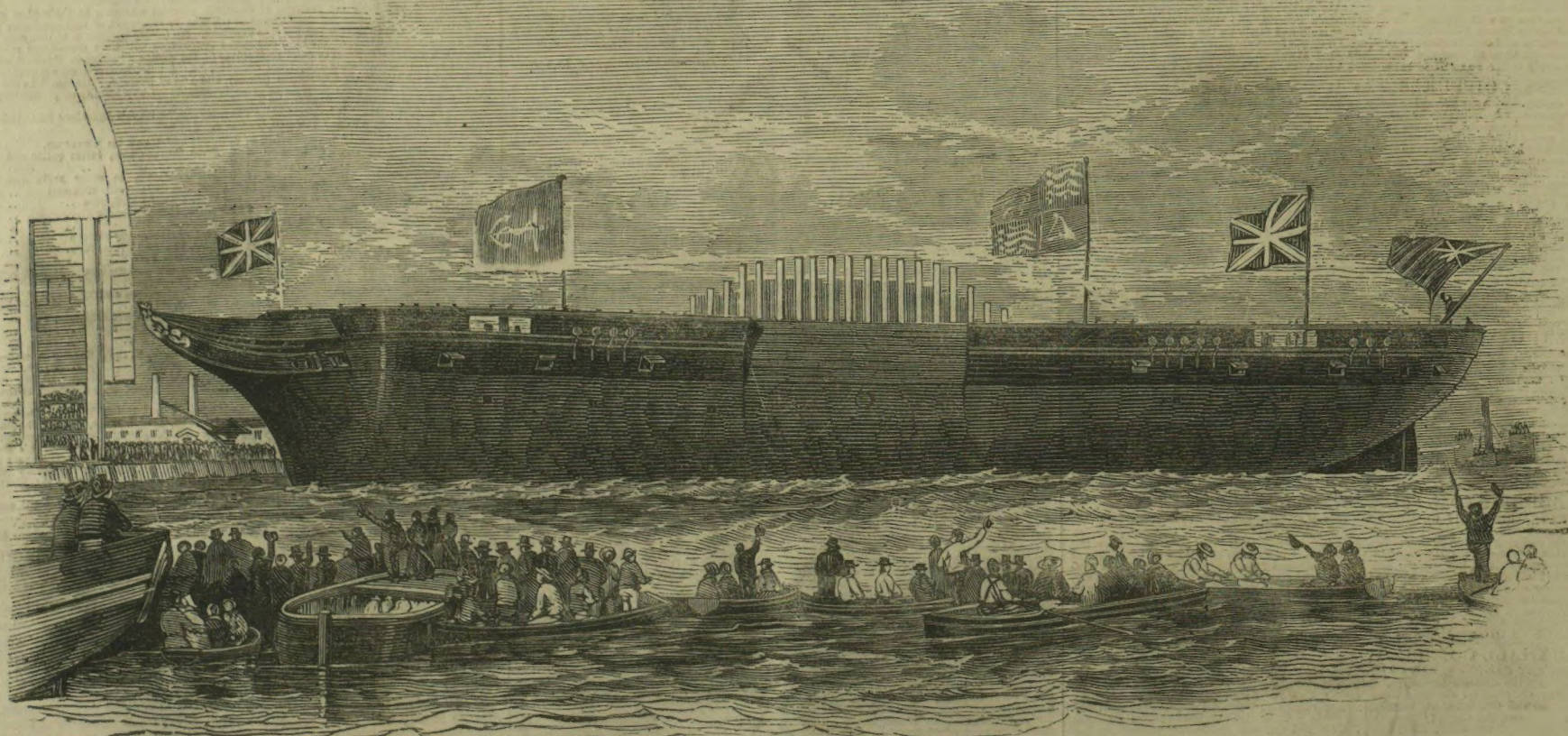
On Thursday afternoon, at a quarter to two o'clock, this mighty ship was launched from her Majesty's dock-yard at Deptford, and glided as cheerfully into its destined element as a duckling from its shell. Hundreds of people were in the monster, and thousands around on land and shore saluted her majestic descent into the "unstirred water;" for never did sea-bird dip its breast within a summer wave with more elegance and quiet, than did this graceful "leviathan of the deep." She, we understand, is constructed upon a model of Mr. Oliver Lang's (master-shipwright at Woolwich), and is said to be so compactly built, that she could swim by her ribs alone, if they had not their external coating. The Royal Albert, now building at Woolwich, is constructed on a similar plan. The dock-house in which this mighty ship was built, was fitted up with various galleries and platforms, from which a capital view was afforded to admiring crowds. In the awful interval of suspense, we could not forbear perpetrating the following:—

Oh! thou dread Engine of destructive war,
Arm'd as thou art
To deal awide and far
The horrors of man's hate
To many a distant, unoffending part
Of this great globe—oh! let thy mission be
Where'er thy wings may flee
A cause to bless, not desolate!
Be thou a halcyon bird of ocean
Floating on the gentle motion
Of the calmest wave or billow
That ever did a mermaid pillow!
Doom'd where'er thy course may rove
To be the Messenger of Peace and Love!

Scarcely had we concluded our rhapsody, when Old Father Thames received one of the gentlest birds that ever floated on his breast. Why call her Terrible? Gentle would be more appropriate. It is true she was not armed—her engines were not aboard. The dimensions of the Terrible are as follow:—

Length from figure-head (which, by-the by, is a very ugly thing) to taff-rail, 246 feet; length of the keel for tonnage, 190½ feet; extreme breadth, 42½ feet; depth of hold, 27½ feet; burden of tons, 1848.

The day was very fine, and perhaps a more beautiful or graceful launch was never seen. The Terrible, instead of a Fury, bathed herself like a Nymph, and seemed to be delighted with her new element.



LAUNCH OF THE STEAM-FRIGATE, "TERRIBLE," ON THURSDAY.